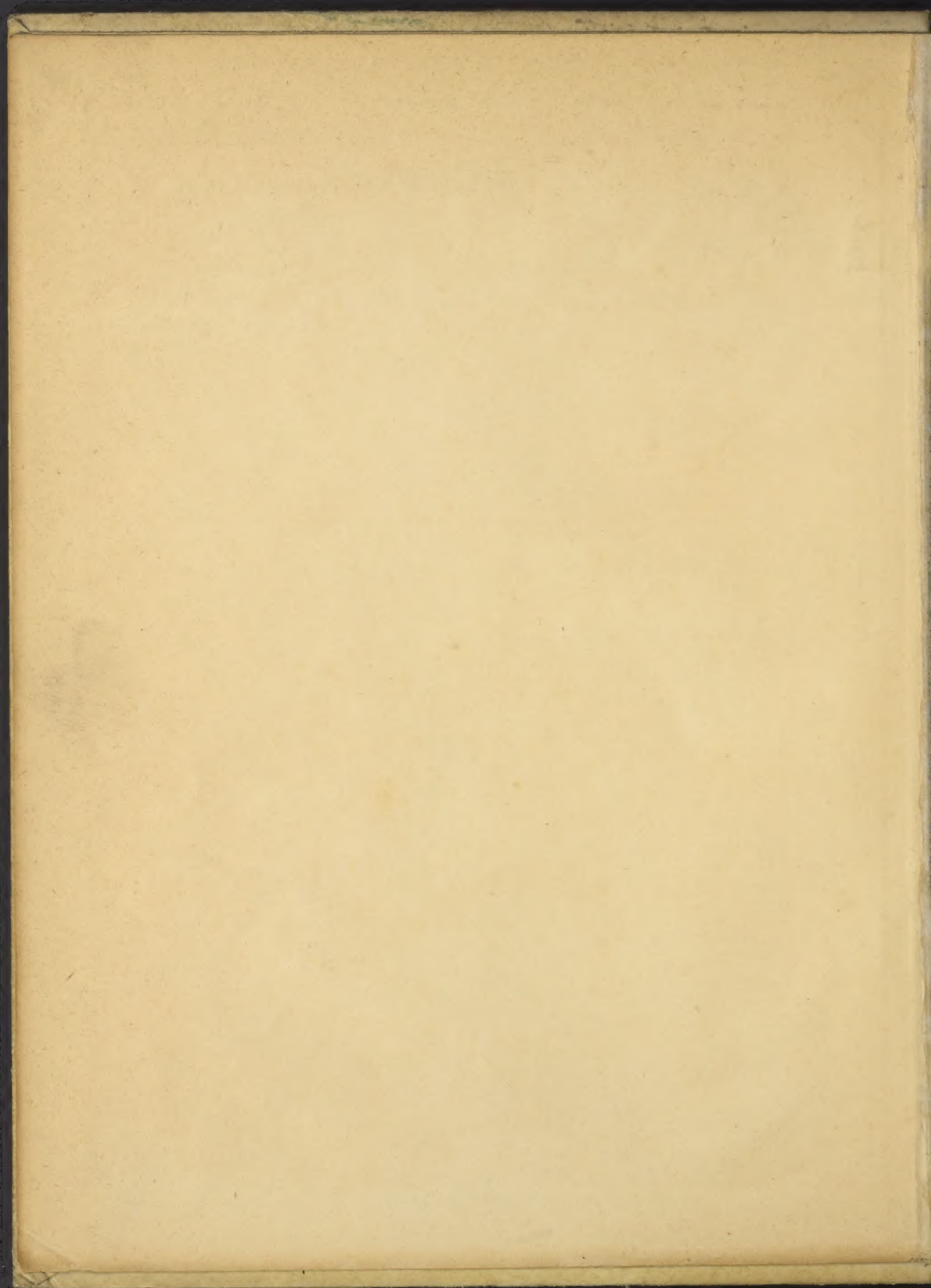






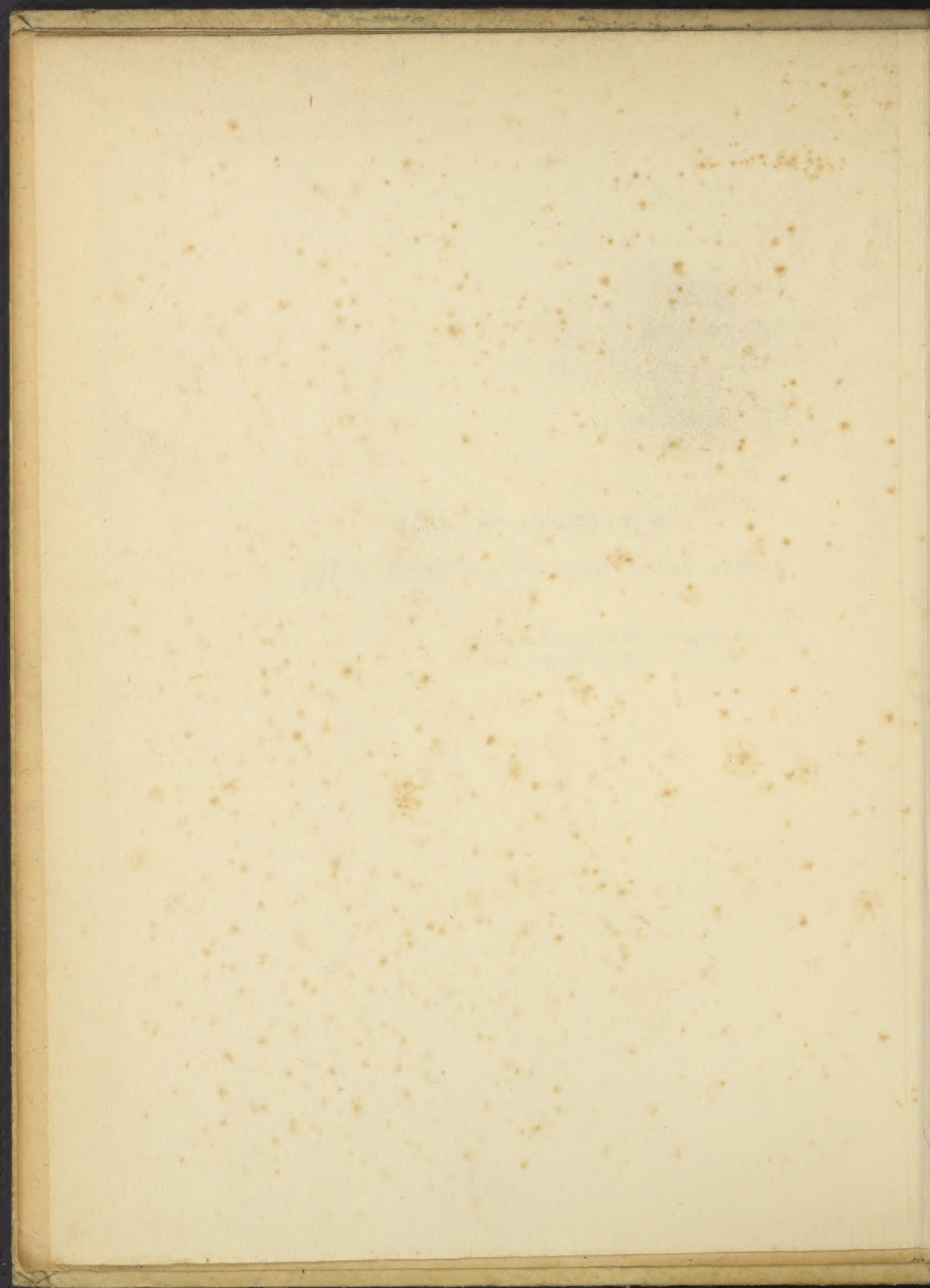
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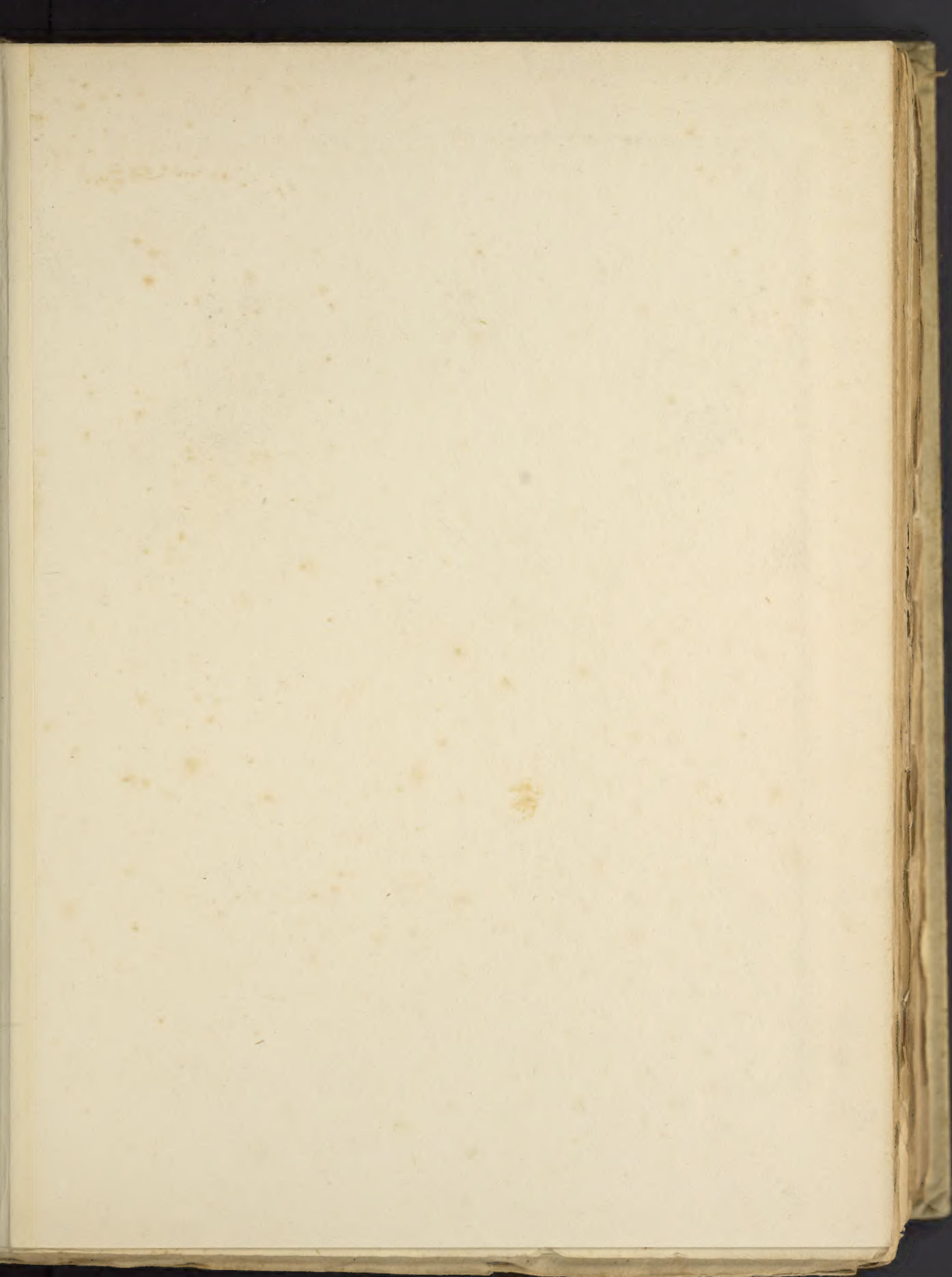


BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL

FROM SAXON TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

*"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;
yea, I have a goodly heritage"*







Edw. Sims & Darridissen.

Barley on the Hill from the South-East.

HISTORY
OF
BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL
RUTLAND

WITH
A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE OWNERS AND EXTRACTS FROM
THEIR CORRESPONDENCE AND CATALOGUE OF THE
CONTENTS OF THE HOUSE

By PEARL FINCH

VOL. I.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLANS

London
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—
1901

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*Only Two Hundred Copies Printed of
which this is No. 77 P. 7.*

TO MY FATHER
I DEDICATE THESE VOLUMES.

ERRATUM.— Page 181, line five from bottom, *for* "1679" *read* "1678."

PREFACE.

"I will a plain, unvarnished tale unfold."

IN writing this account of my home and its owners, it has been my endeavour to let the house tell, as far as possible, its own story, and the inhabitants theirs. I have merely put the connecting links, as it were, between the parts, and I trust that those who are lovers of the days gone by, may appreciate the patient labour, the talents, the generous outlay through so many years, which went to the building of Burley-on-the-Hill: that those who already admire it, may do so more; and that those who do not, may learn to do so.

And here I would like to say a word or two about the spirit in which such places as this should be approached. Not in that carping, irreverent way so common in these days, when people admire or dislike extravagantly, without any reason except the whim of the moment. A certain knowledge of the period in which the house was built is necessary, and nothing can be more foolish than to pronounce it hideous, because it is not of some other style and age. To complain of Burley-on-the-Hill, as has been frequently done, because it is not Elizabethan or Jacobæan, is of course absurd. One may admire the earlier styles, their captivating irregularities, their charming quaintness, but that

should not blind one to the massive grandeur, the classical detail of the later period. Take the two houses, for instance, of the same name, only ten miles apart; each a perfect specimen of its age, yet comparison between them is impossible. Hampton Court is another famous instance, with its picturesque Tudor palace, and the classical buildings of William and Mary, side by side. Burley-on-the-Hill takes you back to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, and the visitor must keep his thoughts only on this period, and then will find much to admire in the form and proportions of the house itself.

But when we think of its inhabitants, the imagination takes a longer sweep. On this spot once lived Ulf the Saxon, fifteen centuries ago. Gilbert de Gant, the favourite of the Norman Conqueror, who possibly built a house here, and certainly commenced a church, of which a portion still remains. Nicholas de Segrave, in Edward II.'s reign; Edward le Despencer; Anne le Despencer; the Warlike Bishop of the same name, who here collected his troops, and repulsed the rioters under Jack Straw and Wat Tyler. Next come the Plessingtons and Sapcotes, names of note in their day; and then the Harringtons, who owned nearly the whole of our small county of Rutland. King James visits them in their house "Harrington Burley," and a poem is written for the occasion. Next the famous Buckingham buys and improves the house, and entertains Charles I., and Henrietta Maria. At one of the great banquets takes place the famous episode of the Pie. What squandering of wealth! what wild gaiety! what reckless feasting! One pictures the splendid Buckingham, with all his gallant company, walking on the broad terraces, or hawking in the woods and Vale of Catmos. Then

what a change! Burley in the grip of Cromwell's Round-heads, psalm singing for the praises of pleasure and wine. They fortify the place on account of its fine position. They also "spoyle" the beautiful furniture and objects collected no doubt by Buckingham. Eventually they burn the house. Then comes the return of the profligate second Buckingham from exile, to receive again his heritage. But like many another he squanders it in riotous living, and is forced to sell it; and the property falls into the hands of its builder, Lord Nottingham. This stern and distinguished man, with care and patience erects for himself a magnificent palace with its vast court and grounds; and here, as much as his numerous affairs will allow, he lives, and we may be sure that Burley-on-the-Hill becomes from henceforward a dignified and decorous abode. So much so, that its inhabitants are nicknamed "the Dismals." His son Daniel passes here his uneventful life. Later, his grandson George, Lord Winchelsea, hunts, shoots, and is "very busy doing nothing," as he writes to his mother. And so the old days pass away, and we are confronted by the present. But who shall say that we learn nothing from the "years that are gone."

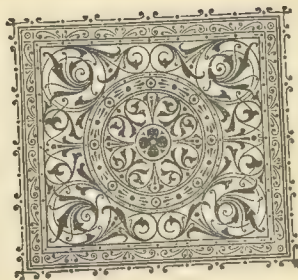
I must here take the opportunity of thanking Mr. J. C. Cossins, architect, of Birmingham, for the numerous photographs he so kindly took for me of the interior of the house and the pictures. Also Miss Connant, for photographs of the miniatures, &c. And Miss Maude Tryon, for her excellent reductions and copies of the original plans of the house.

I am deeply indebted to the Rev. C. T. P. Blundell, Rector of Pickwell, Rutland, for his kindness in revising this volume, whereby it is to be hoped many of the faults of the amateur in literature have been dispersed.

Preface

I also wish to thank Mr. Arthur Humphreys, for having encouraged me to commence the work, and for giving me a general scheme of the order in which such books should be compiled.

PEARL FINCH.



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PART I.

THE EARLY AND MANORIAL HISTORY







MAP OF RUTLAND. FROM AN OLD PRINT AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



PART I.

THE EARLY AND MANORIAL HISTORY.

IN Saxon times the territorial part of this property belonged to one Ulf, who held it of the Crown for "two carrucates as rated to the gild or tax, which land was indeed seven carrucates," but after the Norman Conquest he seems to have lost it, for we find it soon after in the possession of Gilbert or Gislibert de Gant, a favourite of the Conqueror. De Gant placed the property in the hands of his man, one Goisfridus or Goisfried, who farmed it for two carrucates, with thirty villeins. There were also eighty borderii who possessed four carrucates and thirty acres of meadow land.

Part of the present park was evidently then in existence, and there is said to have been a wood one mile and a half in length and three furlongs in breadth.

At the Norman survey the whole was valued at £5, whereas in the reign of Edward the Confessor it was only valued at £4.

There is a deficiency of historical evidence respecting Burley from this period until the reign of Edward II., when we find it in the hands of Nicholas de Segrave who owned also a village adjoining, called Ailesthorpe, which has since entirely disappeared.

In the reign of Edward III., Burley was held by Warren de Insular or de Lisle, who gave or sold it to Anne, wife of "Edward le Dispenser Knight." The king appears, however, to have held a part of it, for on Thomas de Spenser succeeding his mother, the afore-named Anne, he received the remaining portion of this property from the king in exchange for other lands. It remained in the De Spenser family until the reign of Richard II., and is memorable as being the spot whence Henry de Spenser, Bishop of Norwich, collected troops to oppose the rioters under Jack Straw and Wat Tyler who were very active in his diocese. They were led by one John Lyster, a native of Norwich. Burley at this time belonged to the Bishop, who paid a rent of "twelve shillings and four pence for a leet as it is charged upon the Sheriff to this day."

In the eighteenth year of Richard II. the property belonged to Robert de Plessington, who held it of the King for "half a knight's fee."

In the reign of Henry VII. it had passed to Sir Henry de Plessington of this family, Knight, who was then High Sheriff for the county and Knight of the Shire twice. His descendant, William de Plessington, dying without children, Burley became the property of the heir General, "Isabel, his cousin and heir," who was "married to John Frances,

1
Buckingham
1685

2
Harrington

3
J^r Harrington

4
Bedford

5
Bedford

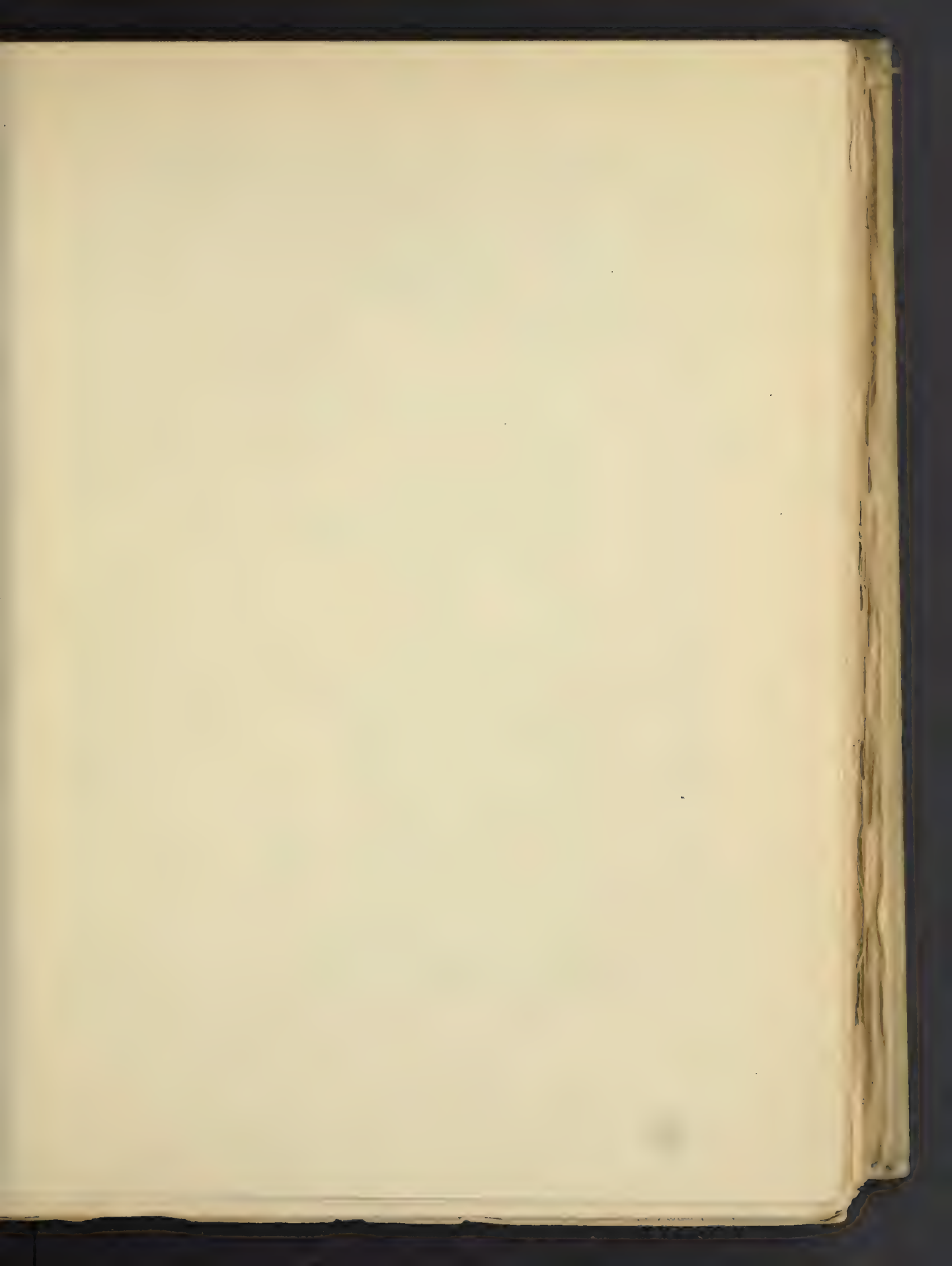
6
Rutland

7
Savage

KEY TO SIGNATURES.

Facsimile from MSS. now at Burley.

1. George Villiers, Second Duke of Buckingham.
- 2 and 3. Sir James Harrington, First Lord Harrington.
4. Lucy, Countess of Bedford, daughter of First Lord Harrington.
5. Earl of Bedford.
6. John, Earl of Rutland.
7. Lord Savage.





GEORGE VILLIERS, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.
FROM A PICTURE BY *Rubens*, IN THE PITTI GALLERY, FLORENCE.

Esq."¹ This family held it only for a short time, when it was probably sold to the Sapcote family, with whom it remained until the reign of Edward VI., when, on the death of Edward Sapcote, the three heirs, Durant, Wake, and Brooksby, sold the property to the Harrington family; and John Lord Harrington obtaining the whole manor, held it for the fourth part of a knight's fee.

Richard Flower, of Whitwell, seems to have had in this manor at the same time one hundred acres of wood, "with the appertenances which he held of the King in Capite, but by what service is not known."

Burley and the Harringtons.

The Harringtons of Exton, as they are usually called, were very large landowners in these parts. Sir John Harrington appears to have been in considerable favour with King James I., for he created him Lord Harrington, and further honoured him with a visit at Burley, Samuel Daniels, a poet of the period, being selected to write a "Panegyric Congratulating," which was presented to the king on his arrival.

There are many beautiful monuments in Exton Church of the various members of the Harrington family.

John, Lord Harrington, shortly after sold Burley to George Villiers, the famous Duke of Buckingham.

Burley in the Time of the Buckinghams.

The history of Buckingham is too well known to need repeating here. His riches were proverbial, he had houses

¹ Wright's "History of Rutland."

in various parts of England, and had increased his position both socially and financially by marrying Lady Frances Manners, daughter of the Earl of Rutland, said to have been the richest heiress in England.

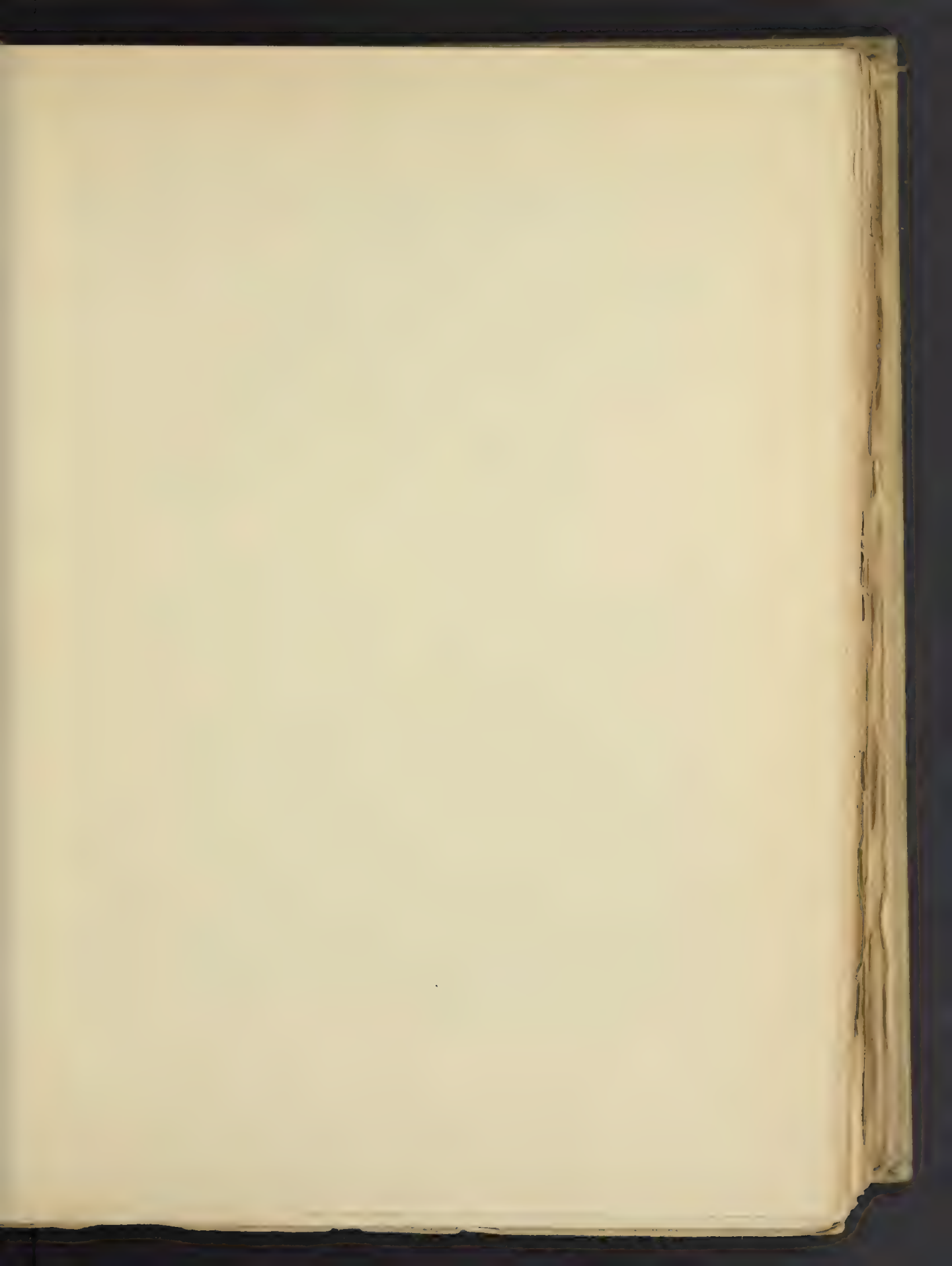
We read he improved and beautified Burley to such an extent that it became a second Belvoir, and was thought by some to be superior to that famous place.

Small part of their time appears to have been passed at their seat in Rutland; the only information of them in this county is, that on one occasion they entertained King Charles I. and his Queen, when everything was done in the most magnificent manner.

The Masque of the "Gypsies," by Ben Johnson, was performed for the first time, the actors all being ladies and gentlemen of high degree. Bishop Andrews preached several of his sermons before the king during this visit, and the famous dwarf Jeffrey Hudson "the smallest man of the smallest county in England" was served up in a pie at table, and presented by the Duchess to Queen Henrietta.

The position of Buckingham's house was, as we gather from the plan given here, precisely the same as that occupied by the present house. Unfortunately, not a single picture seems to exist of what must have been, according to all accounts, a magnificent building. Sir John Evelyn in his journal gives the following description:—"I tooke a journey into the Northern parts, riding through Oakham, &c. Hence we came by Brooke, &c., next by Burleigh House, belonging to the Duke of Buckingham, and worthily reckoned among the noblest seats in England, situate on the brow of an hill, built *a la moderne* neere a park, wall'd in, and a fine Wood at the descent."

On the assassination of Buckingham in 1628, Burley

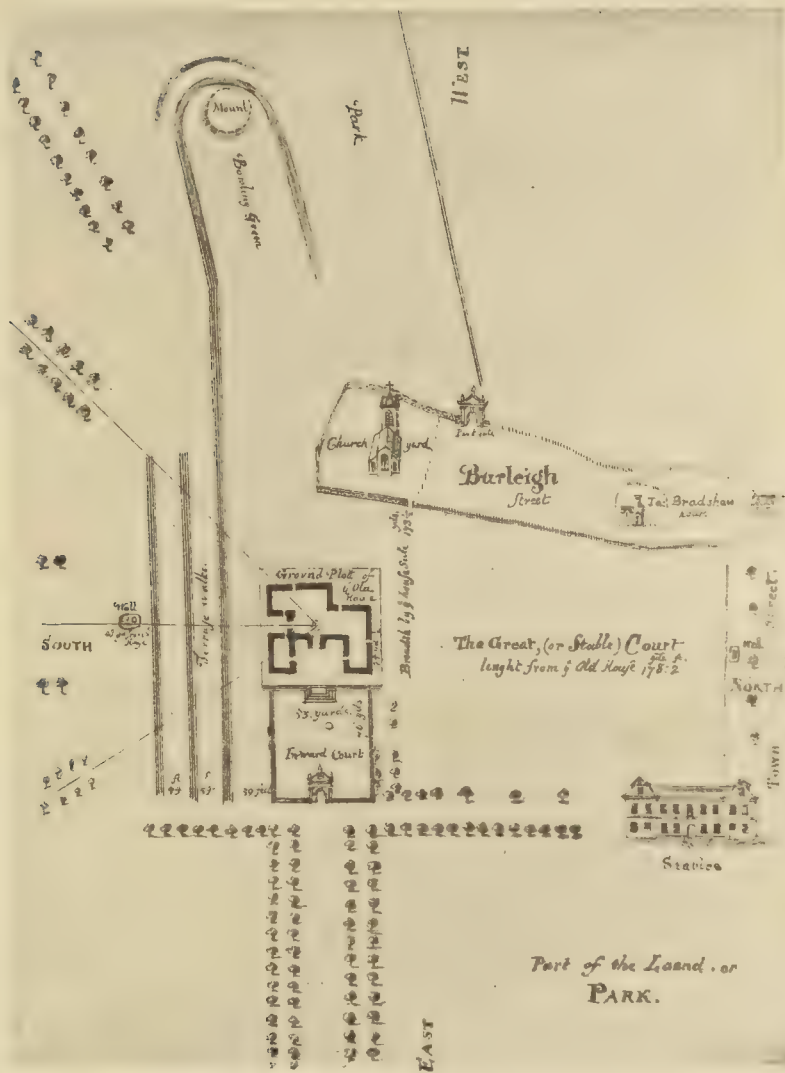




JEFFREY HUDSON, THE HERO OF THE PIE.
FROM A PICTURE BY *Mytens*, AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE.



JEFFREY HUDSON, THE FAMOUS DWARF.
FROM A PICTURE AT EXTON PARK, RUTLAND, IN THE POSSESSION OF
THE EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH.



GROUND PLAN OF YE OLD HOUSE. FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



became the possession of his eldest son, "The Witty Duke," who on the outbreak of the Civil War served on the Royalist side until after the battle of Worcester, when he fled into exile, Burley being taken by the Roundheads, who kept a garrison there for the purpose of guarding their County Committee and harassing the country round.

Orders were Issued to this Effect.

1644, July 19. The Committee of both Kingdoms to the Committee of Rutlandshire and Major Layfield. . . .

We have understood the difference at Burley House, and have written to Lord Gray concerning it; wherein we have desired Lord Gray that the House, Stables, and all the Strengths and Works at Burley, and all the Forces of the Garrison—Horse, Foot, and Dragoons, we for the present put under the command of Major Layfield, whom we require hereby to take into his charge both Garrison and Forces. Take care to avoid all quarrels and mutinies that may endanger yourselves and the Garrison. . . .

1644, October 31st. Order of the Committee of both kingdoms to the Committee of Rutland. . . .

We are informed that in fortifying Burley House there has been more spoyl and waste made of that House than is necessary. We desire you will consider what is necessary to be done for the fortifying thereof, and that as little damage be done to the building as may be.

In spite, however, of these careful instructions not to "spoyl or damage" the building, the Parliamentary Garrison fearing an attack from the Royalist Army, set fire to the House and furniture and left, "yet the stables scaped their

malice and remain to this day the noblest, or at least equal to any building of that kind in England."²

Fuller, in his "Worthies of England," says, speaking of Buckingham's Burley, that "it was inferior to few for the House, Superior to all for the Stable, where horses (if their pabulum were so plenty as their Stabulum stately) were the best accommodated in England."

These famous stables still exist, but were repaired and slightly altered by the second Lord Nottingham.

In 1651 Buckingham returned secretly to England, when, with a good eye to the main chance, he married Mary, daughter of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the famous Parliamentary General, to whom his Rutland Estates had been assigned. He was therefore able to recover most of his property before the Restoration.

Before his marriage he wrote the following pretty letter to Lady Fairfax concerning her daughter.

Letter from Buckingham to Lady Fairfax.

"August 25th.

"MADAME, I shall hope from the intercession of the person that does me the honour to deliver this to you, what I could hardly have expected upon any other account; that your Ladyship will be pleased to pardon me the boldness of writing lately to your daughter. Mrs. Warsom was the first that gave me the confidence of making my addresses to her, and it was by her means only that I had the happiness of wayting upon her, and since that interview has made me soe little Master of myself as not to be able to refraine the

² See Wright's "History of Rutland."



Buckingham

GEORGE VILLIERS, SECOND DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.
FROM A PICTURE BY *Sir Peter Lely*, IN THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

laying holde of an appointment offered to me of letteing her knowe the paine I endure for her sake, I hope your ladyship may be persuaded to make a true interpretation of it, and to believe it can only proceed from an excesse of that respect and devotion I shall ever beare Mistresse Fairfax, whom (if my fortune were in any kind proportionable to my affections) I should have impudence to pretend to have as least as much as any other body whatsoever, since I am sure that it is impossible to love or honour anything more than I truly doe her, and wish for anything with greater longing or impatience than I doe for some means of giving both her and your Ladyship undeniable proofs of it, being confident that, if your Ladyship knew the nature of the passion I have for her, you could not be soe ill-natured (however averse to mee soever she might be) as not to pity my condition, or to refuse the endeavouring to further me by your favour to the enjoying of what only in this world can make me perfectly happy, that is Madame the honour of being your Ladyship's most dutiful son as I shall forever (whether your Ladyship will or noe) challenge eternally that of being Madame,

"Your Ladyship's most humble and most obedient servant,

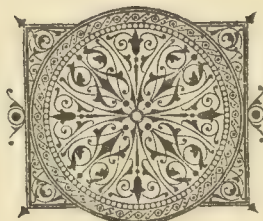
"BUCKINGHAM."³

Forced to Sell his Estates.

Buckingham's wildness and extravagance at length obliged him to sell his property in Rutland to Daniel, second Earl of Nottingham. There is a legend concerning the purchase of this property. It is said that Lord Nottingham was riding through Rutland on his way into Yorkshire to

³ Mr. Eliot Hodgkin's MSS. Historical Manuscripts Commission.

buy Helmsley, another of the Duke's possessions, but on seeing the ruins of old Burley, he was so much struck by the splendid position it afforded for a house, that instead of proceeding to Yorkshire he bought the Burley property. There are, however, no proofs of the truth of this story. It is much to be regretted that so small an amount of information respecting the old house is to be found ; there are probably few places in England whose early history is so meagre.



THE CHURCH



EXTERIOR OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH, BURLEY.





THE CHURCH.

The Advowson.

Robert Molent, Earl of Leicester, founded in the reign of Stephen (1140) of Foulelevrond (Normandy), a Benedictine House; his wife Amice became an inmate of it, died and was buried there. His large endowments to the Abbey were confirmed and increased by Henry II. Pope Boniface VIII. added the appropriation of the churches of "Burlei" in Rutland, and Claybrook in Leicester with "a special indulgence from payment of tythes for any of their lands which they should till or stock with catel at their own charge."¹

But as Boniface was not Pope until 1294, and there are two institutions by the Prioress and Convent of "Eton"² in 1275 and 1282, the "appropriation" by Boniface of "Burlei" to the Convent of Eton must have been a confirmation of some previous donor. At the time of the dissolution of the greater monasteries the Prioress was Agnes Oulton, and she surrendered to the King in 1539.³

¹ See Dugdale's "History of Warwickshire."

² Nuneaton in Warwickshire.

³ I am indebted to the Rev. M. Barton for the above information.

"In 1274, the Prioress of Eton presented to the Vicarage of the Church of Burgle to which House the Rectory of Burly was found to belong at the time of suppression. Here was formerly in Our Lady's Chapel in this Church one Chantry founded by Dame Elizabeth Sapcots, the Particulars of which foundation were in the (2 Eliz. 6) surveyed and thus certified by Robert Cecyl, esq., and Thomas Hayes commissioner for that purpose: viz., founded for one priest to sing mass there forever, and HATH one pension out of the lands of the late monastery of Pipwell in the County of Northampton, per annum. 110s. whereof in alms distributed to the poor people at the day of Obit of the said Lady Sapcotts per annum 3s. & 4d. remains of the pension of the Chantry Priest, named Sir Thomas Watson, aged 42 years, of good report among his neighbours there, per annum 106s. 8d., inde pro decima Regi—⁴ per annum. 9s. 4d. Plate belonging to the said chantry one chalice of 11 oz. delivered to the jewel house. Ornaments valued at 9s. 8d. It was found by Office in the 14th of King James, that John Lord Harrington the elder dyed seized of the Rectory of Burly which he held in Soccage of the Mannour of East Greenwich by fealty only. The Vicarage of Burly is valued in the Kings Books at £10 13s. The present patron is the Duke of Buckingham."⁵

It is unnecessary to repeat the Manorial History.

The Architectural History of the Church.

"The ground plan consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, both of which extend to the extreme end of

⁴ This refers to the Tythe.

⁵ See Wright's "History of Rutland."

the chancel, a western tower and north porch. The nave, arcades, part of the eighth arcade in the chancel, the nave roof, and the tower are ancient. The older part is the north arcade which probably dates about 1180 or 1190. The south arcade is fully developed Early English work, probably 1200 to 1220. It is possible that the lower part of the tower was built with the south arcade in the thirteenth century, but it was almost wholly rebuilt in the fifteenth century. The tower is chiefly remarkable for its very tall belfry windows. The parapet is embattled and it was evidently intended there should be pinnacles at each corner, but these were never completed or have been removed. There are indications of old work in the chancel, and it is possible that the arcades are an accurate reproduction of one or more bays of the thirteenth century.

"The font which stands at the west end of the north aisle is octagon and of large area; each of the right faces are carved in imitation of a traceried window."⁶

The Restorations.

When Lord Nottingham bought the Burley estates, it is probable that he found the church in a state of great disrepair. Its former patrons, the Buckinghams, had neither of them been famed for much religious feeling. The country also had lately passed through a period of fanatical zeal, and few churches or cathedrals had escaped the ruthless clutches of the Puritan party. The Restoration brought but little improvement, for the reaction from strict Puritanism brought an excess of gaiety, and the church was considered of little or no account. It is no wonder then that Burley

⁶ I am indebted to Mr. Cossins, architect, for this information.

Church suffered with the rest. But its new patron, Lord Nottingham, came of a religious stock, and was throughout his life a man of high moral character and deep religious feeling. He therefore set to work to restore part, if not the whole, of the edifice.

The First Restoration.

The first restoration was accomplished for the comparatively small sum of £88 os. 5d., equal to £264 1s. 3d. at the present time. The following details are given in accounts dated 1700:—

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS.

	£	s.	d.
Miles Pomeroy ye Mason for work at ye church & chancell	12	18	9½
Frances Green, by slating work at ye Chancell	2	0	0
Frances Mabison for ye Church at Burley, viz., caps, bases, arch stones & architrave	5	8	5½
Frances Green by work at Burley church in 1703, viz., whitewash- ing, rendering, plastering: himself & boy two days mending slates ...	2	10	2
1702. Rich. Philpott ye Smith fitting three casements to ye Church ...	0	5	6
One pair of joints to ye Chancell dore	0	5	4
One pair ditto Pulpit dore	0	2	6
One pair ditto Comunion Raile ...	0	3	0
1703. Mr. Mathew May ye Carpenter by work in ye chancel	17	3	10
Makeing the Church Dore & Dore- case	1	0	0

The Raile and ballester over the Vestry	£	0	10	0
4 square of flooring in the pews & Belfry	1	0	0	
Richard Combleholm for work 4 days at Burley church	0	15	0	
Carriage of his tools from Stoke ...	0	3	0	
Mr. Norman ye Carpenter for fixing ye Floor of ye clock in ye steeple	0	12	0	
Frances Green mending some holes in the South side of the church ...	0	2	0	
The Church Dyall whitewashing ...	0	0	6	
1699. ye painter by painting rails and ballesters, viz., at ye alter and ye Chapel	0	9	0	
Ye Chappel bench with ye slip ...	0	0	9	
112 church window lights one side at 2d.	0	18	8	
44 ditto both sides at 4d.	0	14	8	
the Chancell windows	0	2	0	
In the Chancell 302 yds.	9	12	8	
In the church 442 yds. 4 ft.	14	11	2	
On the top of the Steeple 40 yds. 5 ft. at 6d.	1	0	3	
Mr. Norman, ye carpenter for work at ye church clock & finger board	0	9	0	
For sawing & workmanship above the frame for ye couples on ye Steeple	3	15	6	
Mr. William Berridge ye Carpenter by work at ye chancell roof 868 yds. at 1s. per sq.	4	10	0	
In ye roof of ye Chancell	6	12	1	

The Second Restoration.

The church was again restored by George, ninth Earl of Winchelsea, probably about 1795-6, the windows being cut square and filled with ordinary glass, the walls and old pillars whitewashed,¹ and the whole fitted with large box pews. The pulpit consisted of three tiers, the top being occupied by the clergyman and the bottom by the clerk, the woodwork being decorated by hangings of blue and yellow (the family colours), as was also the altar. In the chancel was a large family pew, and an old barrel organ in the tower ground forth the psalm and hymn tunes.

Such was the melancholy and hideous picture the church represented after its second restoration. For this we can hardly blame the restorer, as public taste was then almost at its worst; no doubt he considered his duty thoroughly and efficiently done.

The Third Restoration.

The third restoration was begun about 1869, and was completed in 1870, the benefactor being the present owner of Burley-on-the-Hill, and patron of the living. Mr. Pearson, architect, superintended the restoration work. His object being to reinstate the church in its original beauty, the whitewash was therefore scraped off, the windows reconstructed, and the arches freed or replaced. The pews, organ case, choir stalls and pulpit are all of unvarnished English oak, and are simply carved, with the exception of the pews.

The entire cost of this restoration, the organ and the

¹ The whitewash was probably first put on in the time of Lord Nottingham, as bills exist for whitewashing.



INTERIOR OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH, BURLEY.

reredos included, was £4,000. Few better specimens of Mr. Pearson's work as an architect could be found, for it is in every respect a perfect model of a country village church.

The Windows.

The East window was put up in memory of the 9th Lord Winchelsea by Mr. George Finch; the colouring is fine, it was executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell. The belfry window and the windows in the vestry and baptistry are the work of Messrs. Westlake and Co., and are very artistic specimens of their powers as stained glass manufacturers.

The Organ.

Was built by a man of the name of Nicholson. The tone is very sweet, the pipes were coloured by Messrs. Clayton and Bell.

The Bell.

There is but one bell, with the following inscription:—
"Alexander Rigby made mee 1705 Burley in Rutland."
The diameter is 43 inches. There was formerly a small clock bell, which is said to have been taken down and sent to Oakham.¹

¹ See "Church Bells of Rutland," by Thomas Norble, F.S.

The Monuments.

In the nave near the belfry are the recumbent figures of a Knight and his Lady, dating probably from the 15th century. The Knight has suffered considerable damage at some time or other, for only the upper part of his body remains. The arms of both are destroyed. These figures were dug out near the Castle, and were no doubt in the chapel which existed formerly there. Each figure has a necklace of roses round the neck, which points to their having taken the side of one of the rival houses of York and Lancaster.

The second monument was erected in memory of Lady Charlotte Finch. It is by Chantry, and is a very graceful piece of sculpture representing a kneeling figure. At the base is a long epitaph describing her virtues. Queen Charlotte, in a letter to one of the daughters (Mrs. Fielding) speaks of the inscription as "in every respect as it ought to be. Pious, Dutiful, and True, and all together comprised in so small a compass which denotes it proceeding from the heart of a dutiful child towards a beloved parent." Nowadays we should probably term it rather long winded.

The earlier Nottinghams and Finches are buried in their family vault in the church of Ravenstone in Buckinghamshire. This is the reason that there are but two monuments in Burley church.

The Reredos.

The reredos is of stone and very beautiful, representing the figure of Our Lord and six of His apostles.



MONUMENT TO LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH. By *Chantry*.

The Churchyard from Accounts dated 1698.

Thomson ye mason by building 2 walls under ye pales in ye churchyard, making a hole and dishing a pavement stone in ye churchyard walk. £1. 7. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$.

1693. Tubal Cane ye mason for ye wall on each side of ye churchyard gate

Mr. Goddard ye Painter 1698, painting 25 yds. church gates. £0. 16. 8.

Institutions to Burley.

1275. Abraham de Sacristor; by Prioress and convent of Eaton, *i.e.*, Nuneaton or diocese of Geoffry.

1282. Walter de Eaton by the same on the decease of Abraham.

1361. William son of Ralph de Burleye on resignation of William de Boroughdon.

1393. Robert Belton on decease of William.

1417. Richard Tyler on decease of Robert Belton.

1439. Thomas Hudde on decease of Richard Tyler.

1473. William Blake on decease of Thomas Hudde.

1488. William Water on decease of William Blake.

1504. Richard Ashurst on decease of William Water.

1508. Thomas Byrd on decease of Richard Ashurst.

1511. Hugh Norreys on resignation of Thomas Byrd.

1515. Gilbert Ormestor on resignation of Hugh Norreys.

In 1551 The Diocese of Peterborough was created out of the diocese of Lincoln. And John Chambers the last abbot became the first Bishop of Peterborough.

The first entry in the Bishop's register at Peterborough is :—

1566. Robert Green by Sir James Harrington.

1577. William Dalbie.

1618. Samuel Gibson Clerk by Edward Earl of Bedford and Lucy his wife; William Lord Morley, Frances Goodwin Kt. of Winchendon, and Edward Woodward of Lee esq (prob Trustees) from 1643 to 1646, no entries are made in the Baptn. registers.

In 1646 Samuel Gibson (clerk) son of S. Gibson, late Minister of Burley occurs.

1660. Robert Freckleton.

1669. Samuel Palmer presented by George Duke of Buckingham.

1680. Samuel Saunders by George Duke of Buckingham.

1725. William Edwards by the Earl of Nottingham.

1727. Joseph Drake M.A. by Daniel Earl of Nottingham.

1744. John Creyk by Daniel Earl of Nottingham and Winchelsea.

1752. By the same.

1761. John Ball by the same.

1762. John Louth by the same.

1800. Henry or Heneage Finch by George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham.

1819. John Applewhaite Jones by George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham.

1868. William Gay by George Finch, Esq.³

1898. Present incumbent Alfred S. Menzies by G. H Finch, Esq., M.P.

³I am indebted to the Rev. M. Barton for the above information concerning the Institutions.

THE BUILDING OF THE PRESENT HOUSE

THE EXTERIOR—THE STONE AND MASONS

"By Wisdom is an house builded."







BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL. FROM AN OLD PRINT.



THE STONE AND MASONS.

The Position.

Burley stands 505 feet above the level of the sea, upon what is described as a vast plateau (or plain) extending on the north and east for some miles. To the south lies a large wood, and from the house on this side the view is unsurpassably fine. In fact one of Burley's chief claims to beauty may be said to be its splendid position. It has somewhere been described as "towering over the country side," and this exactly explains the landmark it is in the county, for there are few places in Rutland whence you cannot see the house standing stern and gray, surrounded by its wood, a solid mass of masonry, which looks as if it would outlast time itself.

The Architect.

Among the many papers and bills connected with the building of Burley, curiously enough, no mention is made of the architect. The house is built in the Italian style of that period (1694-1702) and bears a resemblance to many great places built about that time, such as Blenheim, Chatsworth, Duncombe Park, &c. Burley might reasonably be attributed to Vanbrugh, Talman, Wakefield or Wyne, or to some pupil

of theirs. Lord Nottingham as a young man travelled in Italy and it is possible he may have employed an Italian architect. (I am inclined to think that Burley cannot be attributed to any of the aforementioned architects, they belonged to a rather later period.)

The Cost.

About £80,000¹ was spent in the building, this includes house, colonnades, court, stables, gates and iron work, dog-kennel, gardens, wooden rails and gates. Lord Nottingham, in a letter to his brothers written concerning his wishes in case of his death before the completion of Burley says:—
“You will find among my papers my designe of an house and gardens at Burley wch. I reckon may cost 15000 lb. I do not prefix or limitt ye Summe but I would have my intentions pursued by such degrees as ye Profits of my estate, not necessarily diverted otherwise by the Will, will enable you: For I would not have my eldest son under ye temptation of living in town for Want of an House nor of being too extravagant in building one.” From this extract it will be seen that the building cost £65,000 more than Lord Nottingham estimated. Lord Nottingham, in 1689, sold Kensington House, his suburban residence, to King William III. for £18,000.

The Labour Employed.

One hundred and eighty workmen are mentioned as employed in the building, &c. Of these, forty-three carted lead, fourteen were brickmakers and bricklayers, fifty-three masons, eight quarrymen, or workers of stone, six slaters and

¹ Equal to about £240,000 now.

plasterers, nine levellers, eight carpenters, three painters, two locksmiths, one plumber, two millwrights, one cooper, six limeburners, one glazier, and one engineer. This does not, of course, include the under-studies, of whom there were probably a great number, for the names frequently appear as "Baker, Verney & Partners." The superintendence of the works was carried on by Henry Dormer, and by the agent or bailiff, Thomas Armstrong, of whom Lord Nottingham speaks in the following terms in a letter to his brothers (the same letter before quoted,—“I believe Mr. Thos. Armstrong is very faithful and capable of managing my estate under you, and most fitted to be employed. I have lately increased his salary from 30 lb. per annum to 60 lb. to wch. I think you must add forty pound, and make it in ye whole 100 lb. per an. for he will live by himself and keep his own horse: I also allow him ye keeping of a cow or two in ye park and wood for his chambers at Burley wch. with ye running of an horse or two should be continued to him while he lives at Burley as I believe he will doe, if you allow him ye end of ye stable² where he now dwells or ye house of Mr. Baker wch. I design for his habitation when it becomes voyd: I doe not impose him upon you, he may have other business to divert him from mine and you may judge it prudent to employ some other person.”

The Amount of Material Used.

The following list here given is (as far as can be judged from the account books) the correct amount of stone, &c., used in the building.

5,896 loads of stone—475,000,100 bricks—23 oak trees—

² The Estate office is still there.

333 oak boards—1,754 bars or loads of dram deals (it is almost impossible to calculate the exact amount of wood used as it is usually mentioned in loads)—5,900 panes of glass—549 piggs of lead.

The building was commenced in 1694, the house roofed in in 1700; but the whole work, such as gardens, &c., not entirely completed until 1724.

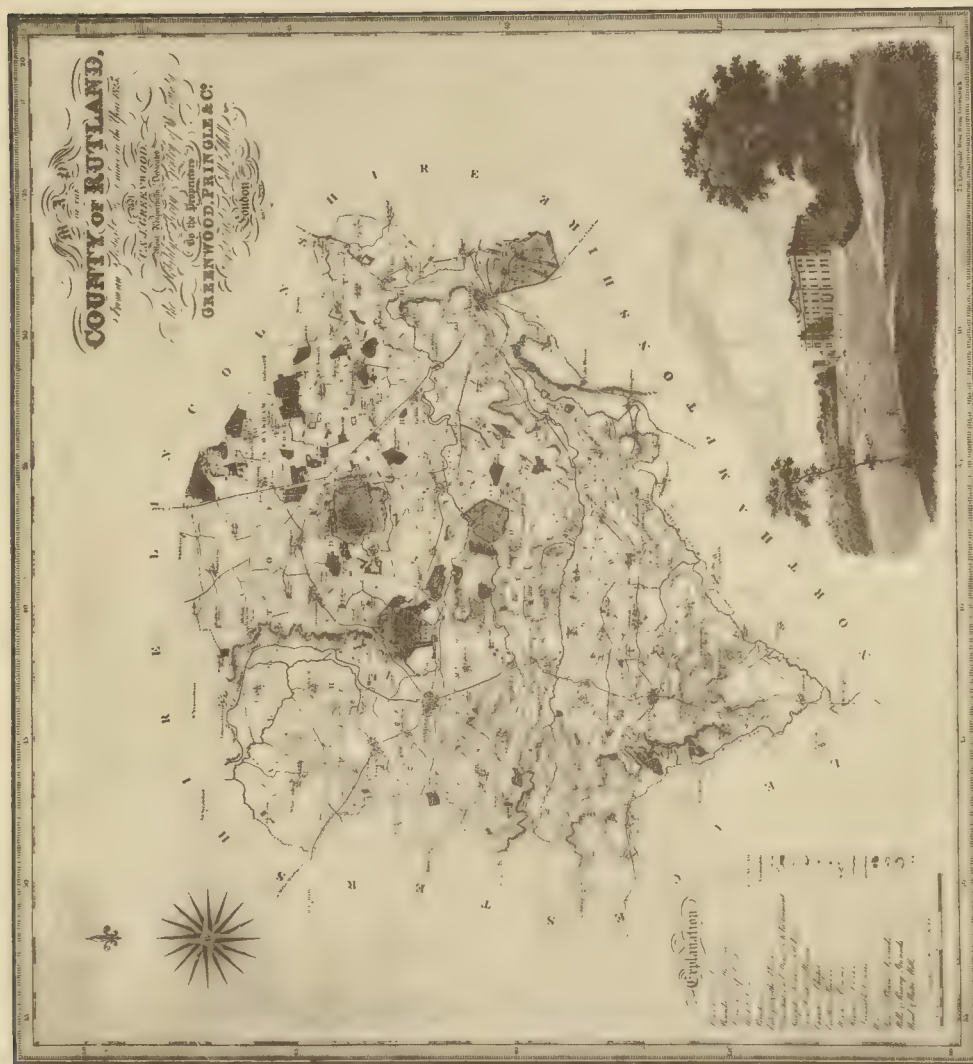
The Stone.

The stone, which is gray, was brought from the quarries of Clipsham⁸ and Ketton villages, about ten and eight miles from Burley; the house is built of Clipsham stone, the colonnade of Ketton.

The First Articles or Agreements drawn up are between one Daniel Sharpe and Lord Nottingham.

The article is dated December 12th, 1692, and states that Sharpe will furnish "the said Earl with such stone as the said Earl should require for his house, out-houses, walls and gardens at Burley." Sharpe was to give Lord Nottingham the sum of £200 for the performance of the articles. Later it appears Sharpe wished to get out of the engagement, for he offers to sell Lord Nottingham the "three pitts or quarries" which he held from one Richard Snow, for the annual sum of five pounds. Sharpe was to receive five shillings paid down and he then agreed to sell the "pitts" afore mentioned with the appurtenances (tools excepted). Lord Nottingham was to be allowed full liberty to "digg" stone, enlarge the "pitts" by "baring more of the ground as need shall be, and to lay the rubbish and refuse" on the

⁸ These quarries are still worked.



OLD MAP OF THE COUNTY. NOW HUNG IN THE EAST PASSAGE AT BURLEY-ON-TIE-HILL.

ground that belonged to Sharpe. The stone that had already been used for the commencement of the walls of the house and the stone that was remaining on the ground at Burley was to be measured and a full account made within eight days' time; the balance was to be paid in money, but if Sharpe owed Lord Nottingham any money it was to be paid by stone taken out of the quarry. When enough had been raised Sharpe was to receive the final sum of £50 when Lord Nottingham had raised all the stone he required.

This article is signed, D. Sharpe, John Wing and T. Armstrong. Sharpe received for the stone he raised and worked during the time he was in the employment of Lord Nottingham, £193 16s. 1½d.

Letter from John Wing to Lord Nottingham concerning Sharpe.

"PICKHOUSE, July 21st, 1696.

"RIGHT HONBLE,—This day D. Sharpe was with me concerning yr. honour's business. 'Tis a great misfortune to yr. Honour no doubt as well as to D. Sharpe that matters are not yet accommodated between you. I should have waited upon yr. honour to-day not only to have received yr. honour's commands but to have put them in execution in order to have made an amicable end of the matter but for two reasons; and one is business upon promise with me from home these days, this circumstance in my judgment, or opinion of depending (if I should be called to answer) should betray me into yr. hon'r's displeasure. All that I have from him is that he has delivered in the value of 30ft. of stone since the measuring of the building, which by that did appear (if that be by yr. honor's approval) to be due to yr. honr. £25. So that yr. honr. has due Stone to the

value of £5 more than his debt to yr. hon. amounts to, he desires me to inform yr. honr. that he will willingly allow the valueing of this bared pitt of stone to any skilfull person your lordshipp shall send to put a value upon it, and humbly desires yr. honr. to accept it, he promises to be at any time assistant to raise Pittmen yr. honr. shall employ. I have nothing more to add but that I am ready to serve yr. honr. at any time to the best of my power in what I can or may, and humbly begg yr. ldp's pardon for the trouble I have had to give yr. honr. on my friend's behalf and subscribe myself,

"Your honour's most humble and obedient servant,

"JOHN WING."

With this letter ends the communication with Sharpe and Lord Nottingham.

The quarries being now in his own hands, Lord Nottingham hired masons for the working of them. The agreements drawn up were as follows:—That they "did covenant promise and agree" to raise stone out of the "pitts at Clipsham," and well and truly work and lay in straight joints such pavement as the said Earl should require, for and at "ye rate of twopence per foot for each running measure to be measured when sett," and "also to well and truly set the plint and the bass of the two stones, &c., and the rail,⁴ according to the mold made by Mr. John Lumley at the rate of one shilling per foot." They were also to "sett the plint, base pedestals, calisters and pannells in ye best manner and cramp the same, &c., &c." The agreements are too numerous to mention here—the following few extracts will suffice to show how such things were done in those days.

⁴ The balustrade round the top of the house.

(1) The windows and doors are to be reckoned as solid, but such windows as shall be walled up are not to be reckoned double.

(2) The chimneys are to be measured double, that is to say the back to be measured as part of the wall. The front to be measured by the breadth of it within adding to the breadth one foot on each side, and to that also add the depth of it, and this sum to be multiplied by the height of the room and for the funnel through ye upper stories, half of that product is to be allowed for the first, and a fourth of it for the second, and a sixth part of it for the third.

(3) Each story as well as the ground story and the three upper stories to be measured flatt and not girt and in the middle of each story, so that the projecting of the groundable and facia course is not to be accounted, but the cornish is to be measured by itself flatt and not girt in ye middle of ye said course.

(4) The thickness of ye wall wch is joined is not to be measured on both sides.

(1) The masons were to "make well and temper and beat the mortar and to let it lye two months at least before it was used."

(2) To make the chimneys soe as to carry up the smoake without any annoyance.

(3) The "funnells" of the chimneys were to be "carried up to ye top on ye inside, with the stone well chopped and joynted."

(4) In case any of the ashlers or coyns were broken, the masons were to make "ye same good by new working the same where the stone will allow or otherwise, but not to stop ye same with putty."

(5) All the walls were to be faced with brick, and those

wch were to be faced with stone, the stone used was to be "well chopt and sucoot."

(6) One Sutton, a mason, was to "sett all the woodwork window frames, doorcases, lintells" and other woodwork, "he was also to work an arch over each window, door and over ye crost of every chimney, and over ye drains and over ye cellars for the foundation of the upper wall which parts the upper room."

(7) If the foundations were laid deeper in some places than in others by reason of the old cellars⁵ or old foundations the said walls were to be built at the same rate even though they should have to be made thicker.

The Dimensions of ye Great House at Burley.

E. Brack's measurement :—

	Feet.	Inches.
The length of the south and north fronts	233	8
The length of the west and east fronts ...	96	6
The height of the wall from ye fachie course to the bottom of the cornish ...	26	10

Another measurement gives the following, viz. :—

	Feet.	Inches.
Length of the south front... ..	224	1
Length of the north front... ..	224	1
Length of the east and west ends	87	7
Whole compass of the hall is	623	4
Compass of the gallery	295	6
Partie walls on ye hall side is	112	0
Partie betwix ye hall and parlour...	36	0
Chapel walls are	66	0

⁵ The ruins of Buckingham's house.

			Feet.	Inches.
The walls for all the cellars	...	...	125	2
Pantrie and butler's appartment	...	...	112	9
The thin brick walls are	...	...	66	0
The whole house from ye top is	...	...	26	9
The circumference of ye house is...	...	...	661	0

Letters to Lord Nottingham from Henry Dormer concerning the
work at the Quarries.

"MY LORD,—I was at Clipsham on Monday but could not see Mabison he proceeds sloly; so that two of Wigson's men and more can be employed by him, the fachie course, the upper part of ye library cornish and his own covering, men can raise it; he has scabbed some narrow ashler (like pavement) which I have forbid ye working it, and order ye rest of ye ashler broader bedid; some more, some less. I told his men that some of the covering course should not be carried to Burleigh because of its tenderness I feare it is not stout and able enough to enjoy ye weather. Mr. Wigson's goe on with the baring of their pitt pretty hastily. I hope there will be no feare of their ashler failing but that one Pitt mouth will serve them both. John Moore loyers his time away and has done but little in working his stuffe and less in the baring of his Pitt for stone for more work may be done for ten shillings, than he has yet done in baring. One of Brai's men are scabbing (at Clipsham) the fachie course which will be very advantageous to the carriage; and to encourage him I have promised that your lordshipp will consider him for soe doing something. The men that should doe the Grove Moate woulde begin it forthwith otherwise they will not meddle at all with it. The

season for it is verry good now; we have found clay neare the place, if it does but hold will be enough of it, we have clay if yr. Honour pleases in ye middle of ye riding in ye King's quarter.⁶ If that should fail Ralph Varney and Baker ye bricklayers are come and want but one half day more will cover all ye walls both house and Library, I was in hopes they would have been finished this verry day. Since Mr. Walker does not approve Verney and Baker would doe the great draines through the Courts and desired me to write about it. The Great Pond⁷ has been verry full of Water ever since your Honour went soe that we can doe little at it yett. The trench for ye Pipes are digged half way and are cutt deep into ye Moate and ye Moate drained, otherwise the water should have stood to ye top of ye Trench. More your Lordshipp shall know in my next.

"From Your Dutiful and obliged servant,

"HEN. DORMER."

LETTER NO. 2.

"*From Burleigh, Dec. 7th, 1696.*

"MY LORD,—My business this last week was to Clipsham twice where I found (occasioned by the hard frost) Mabison's men gone, but three who was baring more stone but none raising; nor dare not till the frost is gone for most of his lately raised stone is perrished and cleved in pieces with the frost soe is some of the late wrought Fachie at Burleigh, done by Braie's men also frosted. Jo Moore has done very little at baring not more than 1000 at 12 shillings in value; I encourage him to mind and manage

⁶ This portion of the wood is still called by the same name.

⁷ The present Upper Fishpond.

the work he took of Wigson and leave his raising of stone alone, for without great help and charge he can get little or no stone. Mr. Wigson's men goe very well with their baring they hope in a week or ten days' time to take all of the stone. Had they not tooke this way to have employed themselves they certainly had gone off and for ought I know, would not have come again, they will want a shed to work in as soone as ye frost is gone, and desire to know if it may be made upon Mr. Snow's ground; for Sharpe has left ye ground where it should be made. I have offered the architrave to Antony and to Moore, they seem not willingly to take it, but Wigson seems to be very willing but yett he will speak with you first. I told Mr. Crofts that your design was not to have ye Trench digged to ye Moate by ten yards, his answer is that he can lay none except he have water, and a little force; to try them as he lays them tis best for yours and his profit. We doe intend to gett up some of the timber this week, if frost holds we shall mind it and gett a great part up. Mr. Crofts says he can take up his pipes, or take them off at length without damage, and wishes to know if he may proceed his way to putt some of ye pipes into ye Moate.

"My Lord, I am your dutiful and obliged servant,

"HEN. DORMER."

The following orders are written in Lord Nottingham's writing but are unsigned.

No more stone removed at Burley. No more day labourers.

The Lime Kiln to be made, and to be agreed for by ye grant. When ye Lime Kiln is ready lett Watts and Oldham have notice that they come to work and make Lime.

The Coles to be measured out to them and ye rest to be kept therefore.

And a shed to be made to keep ye Lime dry, unlesse it can be laid in ye stable. Buy 60 or at most 70 long poles for uprights of ye scaffolding.

Leave with Mr. Armstrong ye end of ye trees valued.

Sand to ye same found near Burley and lett my cart fetch sand from Hambleton one day. Make up the whole end of the time.

Try to find stone for building as neare to ye house as possible for flint stone.

No new groundable to be wraught but as much of ye old groundable to be cleared as will be wanting.

ORDERS 2.

Triman . . . My cart after this week to be employed in fetching coles . . . until there be sand found and then to fetch sand; in which no more labourers shall be employed than can fit ye standing cart . . . Sell no more Oxen.

Try if ye carriage of coles at Stamford can be got at by cheaper rates by cart . . . and go thither with corn leaving it to them to bring ye . . . at their own leisure.

All ye cole dust to be laid by itself.⁸

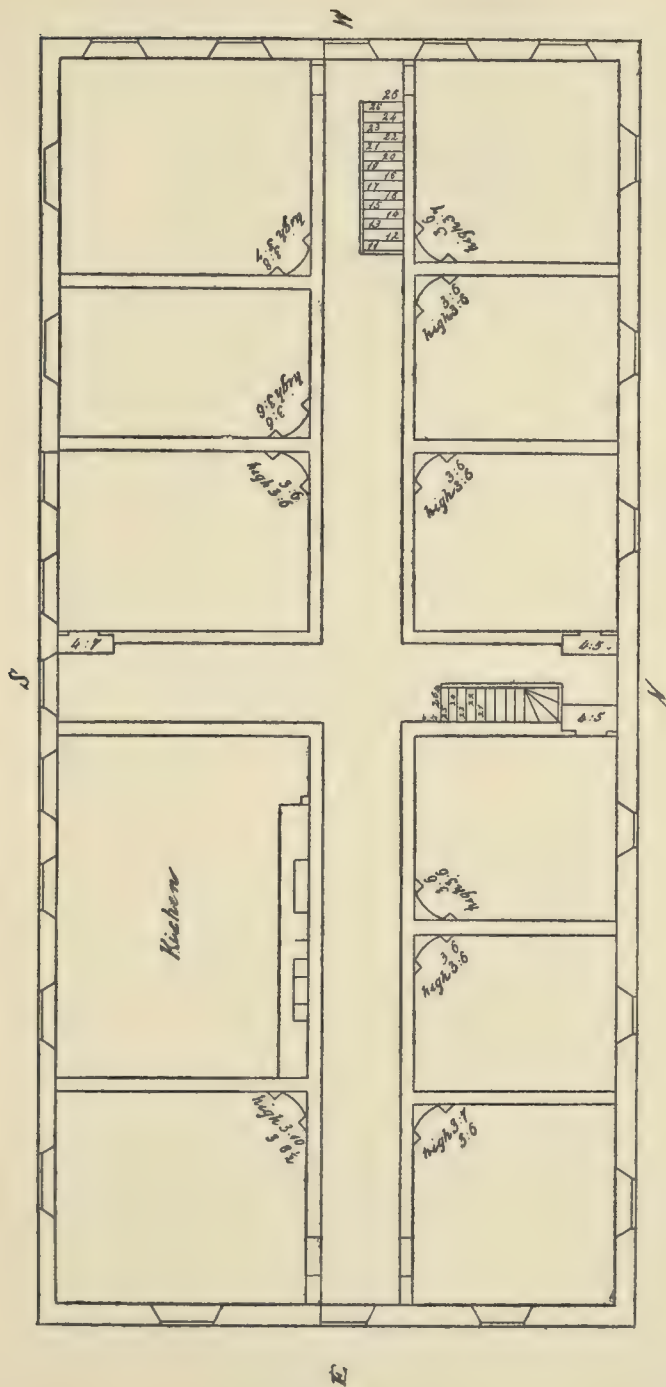
An Estimate for the Building and Gardens, from Michaelmas, 1696, to Midsummer, 1697.

(This included the working of stone.)

For one plain ashler, 9,936 feet (raising, scalping and working).

For half coyns, coyns, pillasters, cornishes, pediments,

⁸ The writing is in parts almost defaced, therefore the right sense may not always be given.



Face p. 36.

FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

Ballisters and rail, carriage of stone, brick lime for ye house and garden walls.

Stone for filling ye house and garden walls, coaping of stone for garden walls, Levelling gardens, Arching ye cellars under ye Library, drains on ye North side great and little, Stone for ye North side 150 loads at 15d. Drains and watercourses for ye South side, laying pipes from ye moat, about 1,200 yards, filling trench and digging it, the engine and mill, plumber's work and leads 80 fodder, carpenter's work, floors, roof, door-cases, and window frames, &c., glasse, timber.

The estimate For :—The stone work, the levelling of the gardens, the cellars, stones for the drains, £2,757 8s. 7½d.

	£	s.	d.
The drains, the engine and mill ...	95	8	6
The plumber's work	800	0	0
The carpenter's work... ..	178	13	0
The windows and glass	845	0	1½
The glass for the cellar floor... ..	14	12	6
The timber	226	18	2

Memorandum in Lord Nottingham's Writing, dated May 28.

Pomeroy & Richardson agreed with me to finish working Ketton stone at ye rates following :—

Ballisters 7 inches square & 22 inches long, well wrought & turned at 14d. a piece. The two half ballisters to be wrought in ye pedestalls & reckoned but as a whole one. Pedistalls of ye Perpin stone seven inches thick wrought as ye pedistall 5d. per foot square. They are to have ye same for ye ballisters & pedistalls & pannels over ye library. December, 99.

Letter to Lord Nottingham from Henry Dormer.

*"For the right honble. The Earle of Nottingham at ye Honble.
Heneage Finch his house in the Inward Temple, London.*

"BURLEIGH. Dec. 19th, 1696.

"MY LORD,—I have enquired of this perished stone at Clipsham and am satisfied what course it is. The first I heard of it before I ever saw Sharpe, but never knew of it till this time, it is a hard course that lies in the middle of the rock, which if it be raised in such stern frosty weather it will not endure, but raise it in summer season and it will endure very well. Weldon quarries are of the same nature as Clipsham is, for their hard course will also perish. I am very sorry your Lordship should have such information of the timber hewing, the men and Mr. Norman will refer it to any workmen if they have injured the timber by hewing it, they will make satisfaction for soe doing. 'Tis true they ask forty shillings for the chips of the four biggest trees in the wood, and they was sold for thirty shillings to two Hambleton men, they was abundently toe deer, but by reason of the cold season men are forced to buy deer, this I can say there was as much bark as chips in the bargain. Wee have got up by reason that ye winds and frosts make it soe slipery to load and carry. Miles Pomeroy and the Ketton Masons brought to me two men that would carry the pavement stone and stuff to Burleigh and they say that if they may carry all the year round they will bring it at these rates which you offered them, and not else, this thing they begg to know. Mr. Crofts desired me to insert a humble petition of his to your Honour, that he might have to put down the pipes at Daintre to wash the rest of them, for he hears they will take damage and be spoiled and then it



BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, FROM THE WOOD ROAD.

will be utter ruining of him and his family and he will stop them again which ever you please. I can give you no account of Hambleton stone yett, I humbly begg that your Honour would order a little money for your humble and dutiful servant.

“HEN. DORMER.

“The workmen are most of them gone from Clipsham and will not return till the frost is gone.”

LETTER No. 2.

“BURLEIGH, *Jan. 13th*, 1697.

“MY LORD,

“Yesterday I was at Clipsham Quarries, where I found five of Mr. Wigson’s men, and two of Mabison’s labourers who is at baring the top of the Pitt, Mr. Wigson’s men are taking of the coap-stone at one corner of the Pitt, they are gott to ye stone and have raised about one load and scabed it. John Moore has done the same alsoe; I have sent for Mabison and his men to come speedily I design to meet him there on Saterdag againe to make preparation for ye stone stuff wanting. There is a great quantity of ye fachie course that was brought in last is perished with the frost, stout eighteen stones of them, near fifty foot, all the other part of the course which was wrought first and once was dry, dose not stirr nor yield to the frost, neither is there one stone in ye outside of the buildings that stirrs or is perrished, as can yet be perceived. The inside of the outward walls done by Reading and Hunt are damaged very little, but the inward walls done by the Nottingham bricklayers are lately frosted in soe much that part of one wall for a yard deep must be taken up againe. Mr. Wigson’s men have wrought all ye lower part of the cornish for the

Library, but they want of the upper part betwixt forty and fty foot wch. we hope to fetch up if the wether holds thus. The South and East Drains are almost finished except ye drain from ye well to ye terrass walk, but the great Drain we can doe nothing at for want of stone it is soe hard to be fetcht up, if you please to give orders we may go for some white stone which lies in some foundation I hope we may find stuffe to begin till the wether allows us to fetch up some more of our timber and noe more at present is squared below. The Grove Moate work goes on very well and we have found clay Putty. Wee were forced to make a drain at ye Saw-pitt and with making it we found a wall adjoining ye saw-pitt end.

“My Lord, I am Your dutiful and obedient Servant,

“HEN. DORMER.”

Orders in Lord Nottingham's Writing (unsigned).

(1) To raise as much stone as possible that I may have it brought in by Midsummer next. The sorts of stone which I shall chiefly want are stone to finish ye other side of ye Columns Walks.⁹ Pavement for ye Column Walks. Pavement about my house.¹⁰ Channelling for carrying water. Coaping for ye walls built & to be built. Steps for ye stairs.¹¹

(2) That all ye stone be better scafeld before it be sent, yt ye carriage may be lighter.

⁹ The colonnades.

¹⁰ On each side of the steps on the North Side is a broad stone pavement.

¹¹ The large flight of steps on the North side.

- (3) Set up ye little pillar stones before my house.¹²
- (4) Lay ye pavement about my house.
- (5) Fasten all ye urns with iron bolts.¹³
- (6) Raise ye great Cloyster walls.¹⁴
- (7) Send some channelling for ye Library pipes to ye well in ye kitchen.
- (8) Send ye stone wanted for ye great pond.¹⁵
- (9) Stone for ye Stairs at ye East end like ye West¹⁶ for ye South like ye North.

Letter to Lord Nottingham Concerning the Carting of His Stone
(unsigned).

"Having a great desire to serve your Honour knowing your honr. to be generous & not oppressing, I am willing to run your loads at 1 pound 5 shillings a tun, 22 hundred & a half to the tun. If your honour has found others has paid. Believing your Honr. to let my forwardness mak my undertakings as no questionable for I doubt not serving your honr. to your interest from which if my faithfulness to work gains a good word, I hope to praise it as I ought & as for your wall & pipes by that your honour please."

(This letter is very involved.)

¹² The pavement and steps in front of the house on the North is surrounded by small posted pillars with chains from one to the other.

¹³ The urns on the top of the Colonnades.

¹⁴ Probably the colonnade between the house, laundry and kitchen.

¹⁵ The lower Fishpond.

¹⁶ The East steps are not in existence.

THE BRICKS AND BRICKMAKERS.

Extracts from the Agreements between Lord Nottingham and the Brickmakers.

I Watt Child of the Parish of Kensington in the County of Middlesex do promise to perform the following articles in case the Earle of Nottingham shall approve thereof viz—I will make for his Lordship at Burleigh twelve hundred thousand bricks to be burnt as near the ruins of the old house as ye ground will admit to be delivered out of the Kiln at five shillings & sixpence a thousand. His Ldspp. to supply only coales wood & straw & grass for ye horse, and in case I find that I cannot afford them at that rate I am to be free of the bargaine after the burning of the second clamp of bricks.

2. Agreement dated Oct. 25th, 1697.

Between Lord Nottingham & Stephen Crofts & John Dods both of the Parish of St. Mary's in Nottingham, Brickmakers. These two men agree "to digg forthwith a sufficient quantity of Earth or Clay of the best sort and the most proper that can be found near the Kilns in Burley Park. The said Earth not to be spitted above four inches thick and to turn the same between Christmas & Candlemass next, ensuring and in all respects to prepare the sand in the best manner for making good and sound Bricks.

These two men agreed to turn out six hundred thousand. In another agreement or contract the men agree to make Bricks "well wrought & clean & drest in the best manner." They were to find and provide at their own charges all moulds and utensils sand and all things requisite for the making of the said Bricks. Lord N. was to make "Hovells for the Bricks and to provide such quantity of Straw as



BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL. FROM AN OLD PRINT.



should be required," he was also to provide "such Pitt Coals Seacoals, or Furzos as should be necessary for the making and Bavins to kindle the fire." The men were to be paid five shillings & sixpence per thousand.¹⁷

The agreements are too numerous to be repeated here; they also do not vary much in composition, so that having one we have them all.

Amount of sand used—72,000,658 loads of sand were used in the making of these Bricks.

Lime—973 quarts 12 bushels used in the building.

Letter from Lord Nottingham to Mr. Child, Brickmaker.

"MR. CHILD I have received your proposals you have given for making bricks for me, and I agree to ym. save only yt. you desire to . . . after ye burning of ye said clamp. In case you find you cannot afford ym. at ye price proposed. So I desire you also not to proceed in making so great a quantity if I find ye bricks prove not hard and durable and fitt for garden walls which are exposed to ye weather and will take up many new bricks yt. I shall need for ye lining of my house. This is what I told you here, and think fitt to mention againe, for tis not expressed in ye paper. So please you begin to digg the rest of ye lode.

"I am yr.

"N."

Letter from Richard Cooke Brickmaker to Lord Nottingham.

"Nov. 24th, 1696.

"MOST HONOURABLE

"When first I undertook to make you two hundred thousand of bricks and as many more as I could compass

¹⁷ Bricks are now from 30s. to 35s. per thousand.

in ye time I told yr. honour my circumstances, I begged of your Lordship that you would be pleased to supply me with five shillings for each hundred thousand, and being in greater straights and in danger of being arrested, Which if I should be it will make me incapable of serving your Honour, or myself; I have dugg clay for your hundred thousand and upwards, and I have hyred men and brought all materialls according. I doe not question but I shall requite yr. Hon. dubble in the business. I have recd. of My Lady 5lb. and I humbly begg your Lpp. whould be pleased to give 15lb. more to be paid to me in Daintre for which I shall be humbly thankfull, and I and my family will be bound to pray for you.

"I am Your Honour's most humble and obedient Servant

"RICHARD COOKE."

History does not relate, unfortunately, what answer was given to this delightful letter, or whether Lord Nottingham merited the prayers.

The Inward Walls and the Bricklayers.

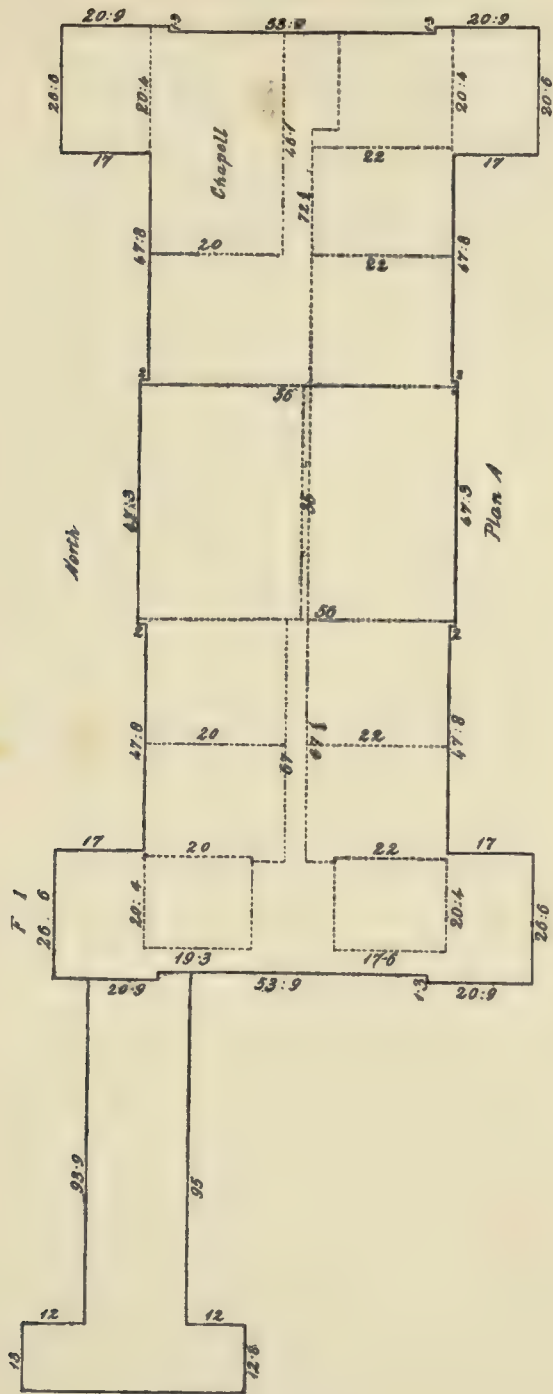
The measurement of the Inward walls.

The measurement of the inward walls of ye great House by Mr. Osborne and his company is as follows:—

			Feet.	Inches.
The length of all ye Inward walls is	...	...	631	0
The depth of them is	...	...	9	2
The second measure is length	...	...	158	0
The depth is	...	...	4	6

When the reducing of the contents of the work is customary:—

The measurement is	...	...	...	20 rood
Abating	...	...	...	27 ditto



FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

Face p. 44.

August 9th, 1696.

In the East Doore there are—length	...	Feet.	110
For the South doore there are	...	...	130

Measurement of ye Inward walls of ye Great House
Burleigh 1696 :—

	Feet.	Inches.
The side and end wall of ye Chapell	66	0
The four walls that part the Pavillion from ye rest of ye building...	77	8
Three walls eighteen ft. long a piece in both ends of the House	88	0
The walls over the cellars 20 ft. a piece	40	0
Three walls from ye staircases along by the passages to ye over thewart wall that runs N. & S.	157	6
Two walls that part ye wall & parlour from ye rest of ye house, 56 each	112	0
The wall that parts the Hall & parlour	36	0

The measurement of the inward walls of ye offices of the
east end of the house are in length as follows :—

	Feet.	Inches
The long wall by ye passage is	88	0
The two over the outward walls are three times 32	96	0
The wall betwixt ye Darie & milkhouse...	18	6
The wall betwixt ye Bake house & Meat- house	20	6
The wall betwixt ye Laundrie & Store- room	20	0
The Chimneys not measured		
Whole	243	0

Extracts from Contracts between Lord Nottingham and
Bricklayers.

August 5th, 1696.—Ralph Varney & Thos. Baker do join and severaly covenant to build all the inward and partition walls of the said Earl's intended house at Burley in Rutland for and after the rate of thirty shillings for every rood or thirty-six square yards. The said walls are to be built from the height they are now to the top of the house three foot thick.

All the said walls shall be built of brick and stone toothing that is to say the outside faced with bricks to be laid a head and a strecher after the manner of the Flemish Bond, and the inside of the walls to be filled well with stone after ye best and strongest manner.

At every half yard in height the walls shall be filled with Putty well made.

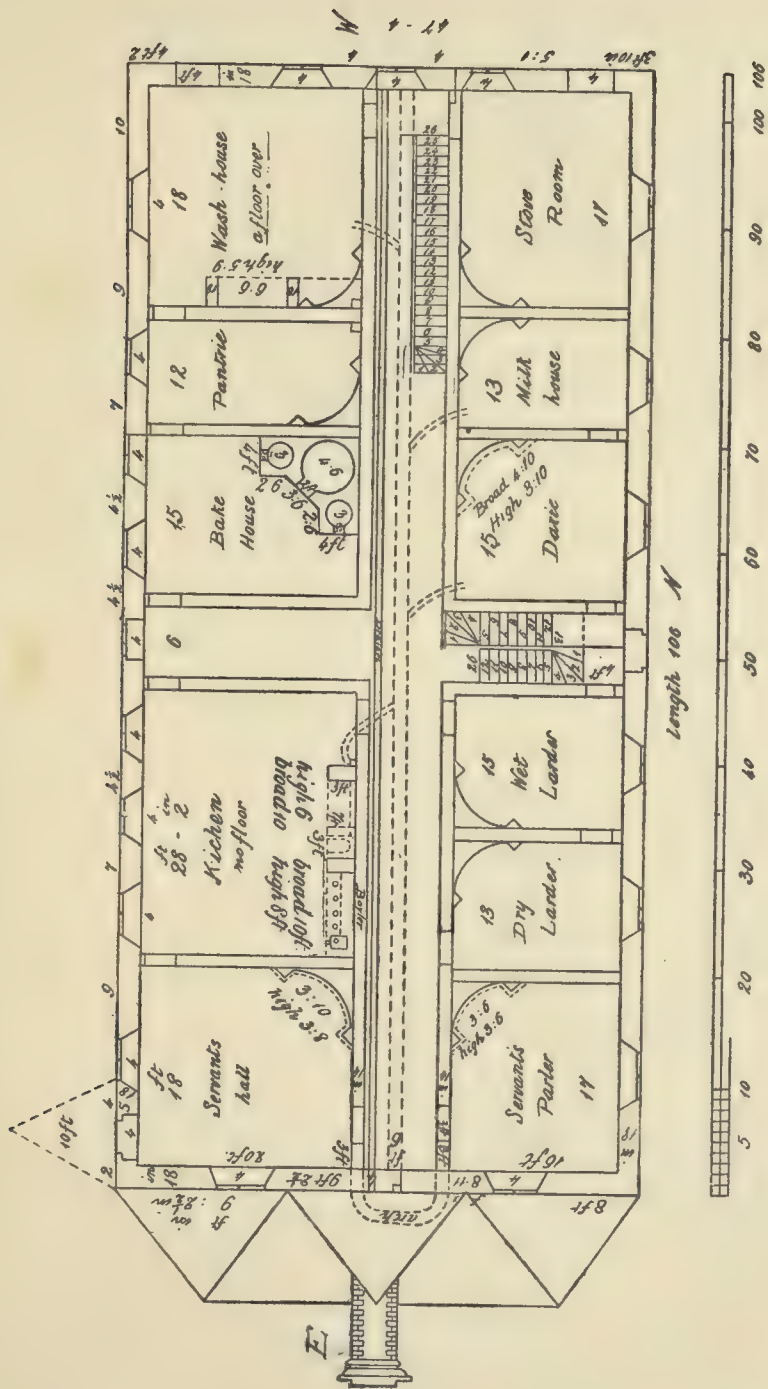
And all such distances and in all such places as the said Earl shall appoint the said two men, shall lay large Perpin stone well chopt and not less than three foot long. The joints of the said Walls shall be well filled and cut with a trowell.

The doorways shall be allowed in measure as solid Wall, but over every door there shall be wraught a strong and substantial arch through and such pieces of oak shall be placed in the walls of the door-ways as shall be convenient for the fastening the doorcase or wainscoat thereunto, they shall fix such doorcases as shall be convenient.

The chimneys shall be well pargitered with loom and boarding and well and truly wraught and so that they may carry up the smoake without any anoyance to the rooms and drawne to such places of the house as shall be appointed by the said Earl; and every funnell shall be wraught not less

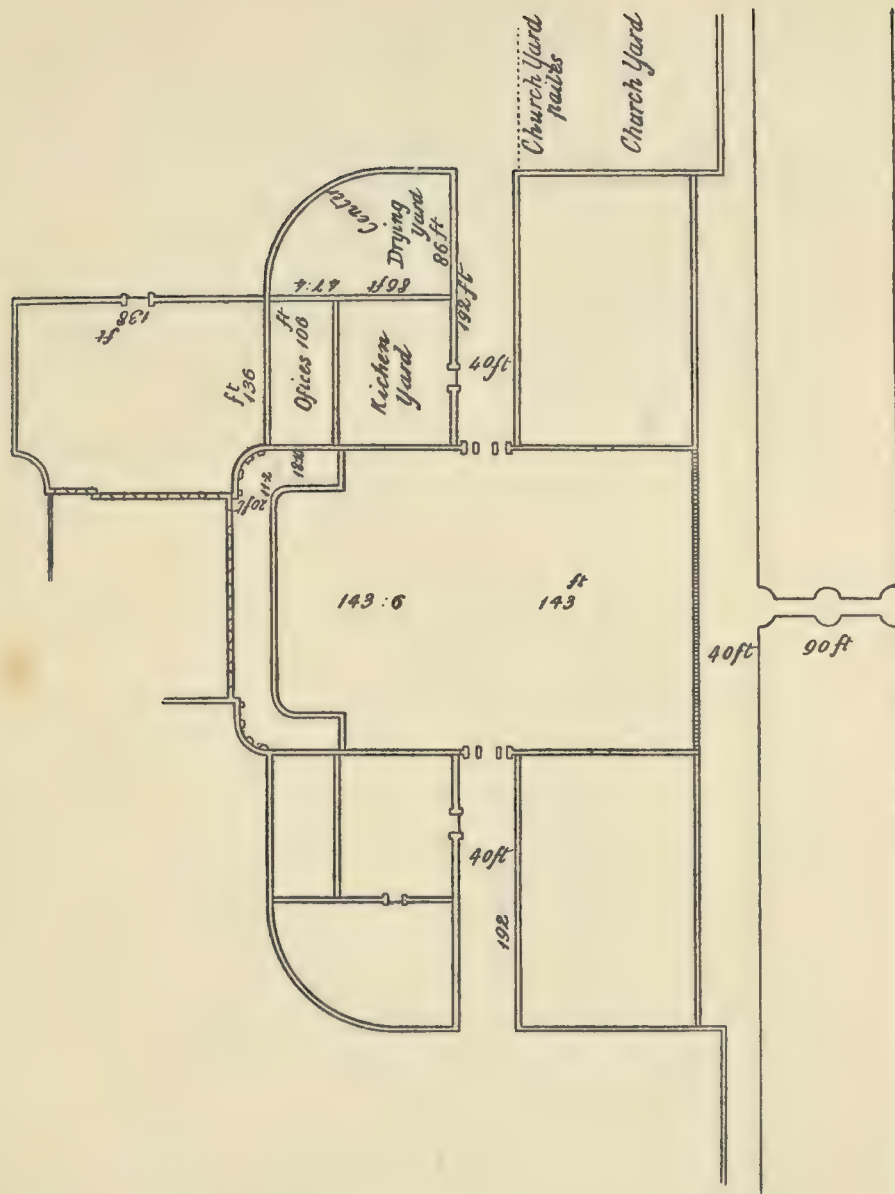


BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL. FROM AN OLD PRINT, SHOWING A HUNT.



FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL

Face p 46



than fourteen inches by eighteen and shall be directed for fastening the wainscoat.

They shall build all the inward walls of the offices for and after the rate of four and twenty shillings for every rood, or thirty-six square yards of walls which shall be two or more bricks thick.

They shall also build and make such arches of brick over the cellars and other places in the said house as shall be required after the rate of thirteen shillings for every rood, to be measured on the inside of the arch, the said arches to be round or groy'nd over the windows and to be one brick and a half thick in the crowne, and two bricks thick below, &c., &c.

Extract from the Contract concerning the Drains.

The great Sewer from the House into which the lesser draines are to run shall be of the dimensions following—that is to say three foot broad, three foot high, besides the crowne of the arch, the arch eighteen inches from the height of the wall to the bottom of the crowne. The side walls and the crowne of the arch shall be nine foot thick; the bottom of the draine shall be paved with chopt stone. The wall shall be set with mortar and the arch with lime, &c.

**Letters to Lord Nottingham from Dormer and Kirby (overseers)
concerning the Building of Burley.**

No. I.

“From BURLEIGH *Nov.* 1696.

“MY LORD,—

“I have received yours this day; And we have made no more progress in our building than when I wrote last (sat. only the covering of the walls.) The weather has

been so very wett & bad; and we are all come to this resolution concerning the Library goeing forward that if the weather does not take up, in offering as a fairer season, we shall speedily as soon as the walls of the Great House are covered desist in raising the Library Wall any higher but cover them; Except Your Lordpp. orders us to the contrary. I find the Walls are very green and raw, and sett but little, they are also thin and if the Girders should be rowled or shock'd upon them I fear the standing of them. My advise to your Ldpp. is that the walls may be covered soon after the others are done. Mr. Norman has but one days work or two days afterwards of finishing ye floors of ye Great House he will cover ye girders as yr Ldpp. have ordered. I have not seen Mr. Wigson since I received your letter, I doe intend to goe to Clipsham on Monday morning to see again what progress they make there. I shall soon if ye Teams goe with me thither and can get noe more stone upon the bank before it is mended. I think it is to little purpose to send to Varney, the Bricklayers, to cover over since there is so little business for him to doe. I did forgett to let your Ldpp. know the matter in ye Great Pond had washed the clay part of it away, but it has done more damage to ye wall than what you saw before; I was there this day to view it, I shall be careful to observe all those commands which are to be done by your Honour's

"Most dutiful and obliged servant

"HEN. DORMER."

LETTER NO. 2.

"MY LORD,—

"This is to acquaint yr. Lpp. that the frost has done a great deal of damage to the party Walls of your house for there is three or foure of them yt. I believe must

be taken down foure foot or more, ye bricks are soe extremely perrished on both sides. I find these bricks will not endure the weather except they be verry hard though they be laid in the inside Wall which has much more shelter than an outside Wall has. The same stuff in the field has received damage, for there is seven or eight thousand of them spoyled Likewise the Facia Course has suffered much, there is 60 feet of that which is wraught split to pieces by the frost. My Lord it is my opinion and likewise Mr. Freemans and the Bricklayers here Hunt & Reading, yt. if your Ldp. could gett an honest bricklayer from London to work yt. earth yt. was dugg by Math. Child his men, it would make verry good bricks yt. would hold better than made of the strong clay wch these brickmakers are all for.

"I am your Lordships most humble and obedient servant,
"EDWARD KIRBY."

6

"BURLEIGH. *Jan. ye 11th. 1697*"

LETTER, No. 3.

"May it please your lordpp.

"I have received yr. Lpp's of the 19th. and shall observe yr. orders about ye deals. I was with My Lady yesterday and she ordered mee to send yr. Ldpp. an account of Mr. Wigson's worke, he has brought up the outward walls of the offices all round to the height of the Brick walls on the East side of ye Library these want but two feet to rise to the bottom of ye Facia Course, Mr. Dormer, Mr. Norman and myself do think fitt to proceed no further with the house this year. But resolved to gett the walls covered as fast as we can. Heath has dugg about 140 yds. of the Trench for the pipes but has not finished it to the full depth. I can give

yr. Ldpp. noe account of the stone wch William Michael told yr. Ldpp., for as yett he hath sent none ; which is all at present from

"Your Lordship's most humble servant,

"EDWARD KIRBY."

"BURLEIGH, *Nov. 21st. 1696.*"

LETTER No. 4.

"May it please your Lordship

"This is to acquaint your Ldpp what progress has been made in yr. House since yr. absence, Mr. Norman has been very active this last week in getting up the timber and has laid the floor of the Great Room and has got up most of his girders for ye others floors. Mr. Wigson has brought up ye West end of ye Library ready for the facia course but this week there has been nothing done by reason of the weather for on Sunday last there fell a great snow, and a frost followed it so that the men could not work, but now the weather is broak and I believe they will go to work to-morrow. Wch is all at present from

"Your ldpp's most obedient servant,

"EDWARD KIRBY."

LETTER No. 5.

"*Nov. 9th. 1696.*"

"MY LORD,—

"Our carpenters work went verry well on, till Friday morning at which time there fell some rain that hindered him from doing any more last week, he has made a fair progress in ye floors of ye house he having raised all his girders but one and most joints but they are not yet all in their places ; Saturday John Wigson raised some of his



BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL. FROM AN OLD PRINT.

Fachia Course ; about the fifth part of the Library has none of it sett, the horse and Ox Teams have minded their business all the last week. The Nottingham bricklayers have raised the middle walls and covered much about halfe of them, I have broake through the wall of Mr. Armstrong's Strong Room but we fell into the chimney which will make something more work, I doubt not but to make ye Door way and chimney very good. . There fell such a great quantity of snow on Saturday night and Sunday morning that had not ye wind carried it into heaps it would have lain level 8 inches deep in soe much that we cannot goe on with any business but what is near home, I mean with ye Teams.

"I am your Lordship's dutiful and obedient servant.

"EDWARD KIRBY."

Unsigned Letter from Lord Nottingham to Edward Kirby.

LETTER NO. 6.

"(1) To direct every . . . ye work for ye Teams for ye next day, and if any pretence be made yt, any of ym. cant work ask Will Barnly ye truth of it.

"(2) The Teams are to be employed in fetching the board from Stamford.

"(3) Sand from Exton.

"(4) Stone from Clipsham.

"(5) Bricks from ye yard to ye building.

"(6) Stone from Land close for ye Drains.

"(7) Stone from Exton field for paving ye Stable.

"(8) Timber out of my woods.

"(9) These severall services are to be performed so as may best carry on my businesse, and keep ye workmen employed, and as ye Weather will permit. And therefore care is chiefly

to be taken for Clipsham Stones, from whence no sort is to be fetcht but only coyns. and Windows at Burley. In ye next place timber from ye woods, yt Mr. Norman may not wait for it. The boards may be fetcht when ye roads are too bad to goe elsewhere, and keep account of what are brought in and delivered out. Let ym. be well piled up; By ye Annexed Extract of ye Articles you will see what is to be done this winter, and see yt. all be done as it ought and lett all ye Walls be covered with all speed, give me an account Weekly of all proceedings.

"(10) See what earth ye Brickmakers digg yt it be such as is proper and good.

"(11) See ye Bricks as they are drawn out of ye Kilns yt none but ye good be sett in rows and take an exact account of ym.

"(12) The Gutters of ye Stable to be new lead in ye first place.

"(13) The stone in Land Close which will not be used in ye draine to be stackt up yt it may not frost.

"(14) The Garden Walls to be covered both ye top and ye sides.

"(15) The gallery Windows to ye East to be putt in and ye glasse also made for ym, but ye old ones not to be taken down till ye new ones are made to be fixt.

"(16) Keep account of ye stone from Mabison, Sharpe, and Moore distinctly.

"(17) Lett a Trench be digged about ye upper Kiln to carry off ye water."

It is from these orders that we see how strictly Lord Nottingham looked into everything connected with his building, and what an excellent man of business he appears to have been.

LETTER No. 7.

"BURLEIGH, *Jan. ye 9th*, 1697.

"May it please your Lodship

"This is chiefly to acquaint you of how your Teams have been employed. The two horse Teams have been twice at Stamford for Deals, and two days carrying bricks for ye Draines, the rest of ye week carrying hay, and thornes for hedging, the Dogg Horses are constantly employed in drawing of trees, the two Ox teams have been employed one day to Clipsham, one Day fetching sand from Exton. There is no men about the building, but Hunt and Reading, and two of Wigson's men, Heath and Chesterton clearing for ye draines which is all at present

"From Your Lordships most humble servant

"EDWARD KIRBY."

LETTER No. 8.

"May it please your lordship

"This is chiefly to give you an account of how your teams have been employed this last week, the two Horse Teams have been three times at Stamford for deals, the dogg horses have been employed in drawing of trees, and in carrying of pipes to the Trench, the half in carrying hay. Robt. Crofts has laid above 600 yards of pipes and this week if it continue fair he will have laid all the pipes that he has. Hunt and Reading are going on with the Drains on the South side of ye House which is all at present from

"Your Lordships most humble servant.

"EDWARD KIRBY."

6

"BURLEIGH *ye 4th*, 1697."

LETTER No. 9.

" May it please your Lordship

"This is chiefly to let you know that ye walls of your house and Library are all covered and I hope by ye middle of next week ye Offices and ye Garden walls will be covered, this week has been frosty weather soe that the teams could not doe anything but carry hay some to Exton, some to ye Stable and for ye deer in the Park. Heath still continues the Trench for the pipes and has dugg above 700 yards, and Robt. Crofts does intend to begin to lay the pipes next week, which is all at present

" From your Lordship's most humble servant,

" EDWARD KIRBY."

" BURLEIGH, *Dec. ye 5th*, 1696.

LETTER No. 10.

" May it please your Lordship.

"This is chiefly to give you an account of how your Teams have been employed in this last week. The two horse Teams were one day at Stamford for deals, one day carrying of bricks, one day to Cottesmore for wood for pipes, two days drawing of Timber out of the Woods, the other day fetching of hay. The two Ox teams were employed in carrying of hay to Exton and to the Stables at Burleigh, and clay to the grove Moat. The inside walls of your House that have received the most damage by the frost is the Wall yt parts ye Ale cellar and ye wine cellar which must be taken up ye whole length which is 20 ft. and 5 ft. deep the two



BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL. FROM AN OLD PRINT.

walls of the passage length on each 50 ft. and 5 ft. deep and one of the brick and a half walls near ye West door in length 18 ft. and 2 ft. deep which I believe may be made good. My Lord in the garden Wall there is about a thousand of bricks perished which may be cutt out and new brick put in without pulling down any of the Wall.

"I am Your Lordship's most humble servant,

"EDWARD KIRBY."

There are more letters concerning the teams how they are "carting of Lead from Nottingham, &c.," but they are for the most but repetitions of those already given.

THE TIMBER AND THE CARPENTERS.

Extracts from the Contracts concerning the Timber and Carpenters.

"Whereas Simon Digby of Luffenham, esq., hath sold twenty-three oak trees unto the Earl of Nottingham For and after the rate of forty shillings per rood." The article continues: Digby promises to deliver the timber and Lord N. was to remove it at his own convenience if any of the trees should, happen to be "shaken or lagg'd or rotten or damaged or if they were found decayed only in part or damaged by the falling thereof or otherwise" he was to make "satisfaction," May 2nd, 1706. Digby received the sum of sixty pounds for these trees.

Agreement between Lord Nottingham and Mathiew May, Joiner. In this agreement May consents to "saw frame and hew floors of oak, Prepare ye roofe of ye house for leads with ceiling floor under the roofe of oak. To make doore cases plaine and rabbitted one with another, to make

window frames of oak with munion and transime, also window cases of oak with ditto Partition oak Lintel Windows and doores. To lay the boards of oak, viz., such as shall be dovetailed of oak, such as shall be laid with joints gayned nailed and ye nails covered of oak, &c. Wainscoat of oak wainscoat of deal." May was to find his own "nails and glue."

The Deals, as they are called, were partly dram and partly Christiana.

Letter concerning the Deals.

"LYNNE REGIS, *Oct. 25th, 1704*

"May it please your lordship

"I am much disappointed in my expectations here for there are no Christiana deals in this Towne except only a small quantity in ye hands of one Mr. Keen, and those of the coarsest wood I ever saw of Christiana and ye twelve foot he reckons at eight pence, £6 per load. Mr. Osborne has a fine parcell of long sound fourteen feet and a parcell of twelve. The long sound will be useful for stiles, he has also good Dram Deals, I told him your Lordship would order an answer to be sent by next post whither he must reserve any for your Lordship or make of his first.

	Feet.	£	s.	d.
About a 1000 long sound ...	14	9	0	0
1000—Fredrickstadt ...	12	9	10	0
300 dram ...	10	6	10	0
Ordinary Deals for laying				
under leads ...	10 & 11	5	2	6

I must pray your Ldpp. to direct an answer to be given to

Mr. Osborne Merchant at Lynne in Norfolk. I am may it please yr. Ldpp.

"Yr. Ldpp.'s most dutiful & most obedient servant,

"T. ARMSTRONG."

Lord Nottingham used besides these Deals, a great deal of his own Timber in the Wood.

Extracts from Agreement between Lord Nottingham and May, Carpenter.

The said May :—

1. Shall saw sett make and sett Sash Storys at Burleigh at seven shillings for each frame.

2. Sash frames for the Garret Windows at five shillings each frame the said Earle finding rough timber; May to find his own glue and nails.

3. Shall make sashes for all the windows of the best wainscott of one inch and three quarters square according to the modell thereof given and shall find the said Wainscott and also the best lines and pulleys of four inches diameter with brass collars and iron pieces and also such like lines and Pulleys for opening and shutting the same, and cast and make the weights at one shilling and sixpence the square foot the said Earle finding the lead.

May was also to make and "frame folding gates for the Park." Lord Nottingham was to find "tough timber Iron Bar hinges and spike at five guineas the pair." Saw, make and hang in like manner the outward folding gates for the Stable at three pounds per pair.

Saw and make doors between the stables at two pounds ten shillings.

Make and frame partitions with rails and ballisters well turned at two shillings and sixpence ye square yard.

Frame and sett up Wainscott against the walls in the Stable, and make beds, benches and presses with pins to hang saddles &c. and frame shutters for the Stable Window at one and sixpence per yard.

There are many more contracts with the Carpenters but they do not greatly differ from these given.

Letter Concerning the Carpenters' Work.

" MY LORD,

" The above mentioned particulars is a copy of Mr. Evans Article as to ye building here we go on verry slowly for want of bricks, we have used up all the old stock and what new has been burnt this year, and it will be three weeks before we shall have any more burnt and all for want of coals coming sooner. The floor is all on and some of ye party walls about four foot above ye floor.

" I am your lordship's most

" Humble servant

" EDWARD KIRBY."

The timber viewed by ye office door to be pulled down viz, four girders over ye cellar eighteen feet clear if good. Four girders over ye Kitchen and Stewards Parlour seventeen feet.

Several more girders short which will saw to joicel binding joice and rafters Wall plates.

The old Timber will near make all ye rooffe except four hips—I—and four valeys also many of ye scales of ye post and enterlaces.



OLD MAP OF THE COUNTY OF RUTLAND.



New Timber.

Girders and timber to raise ye suppose rafters in ye two gutters 20 Loads.

The windows and dorecases 10 Loads.

The timber pulling down and soarting and laying all in parcells out of ye way in convenient places and carrying ye same to ye saw Pitt which must be slitt out to ye best of ye Knowledge—is worth £20

January 17 $\frac{5}{8}$ —Delivered out at five score to ye hundred.

	Loads.
Received Dram from Tinwell	600
Delivered out to ye joiners for wainscott ...	119
To Berridge for partitions in ye East Gallery	51
Nov. 1706. remains	600
Christiana Deals at four score to ye hundred	
From Tinwell	120
Jan. 17 $\frac{5}{8}$ at five score to ye hundred recd. from	
Lime	14
Delivered out to ye joiners for wainscott ...	40
To Berridge for wainscott	7
To Dexter ye Cooper for ye Brewhouse ...	7
To Wilkinson for the West Stable	57
To Berridge for the Melin Frames in ye	
Garden	51
For ye two doors of ye Stable (West) ...	12
Two Windows for ye East Gallery	81
To the Joiners for ye work at ye Stables ...	223
176 Then remaining on the floor of the great	
dining room and landing place	264
Upon the floor of the Great Staircase ...	88
The rooms on the south side of the House in	
the 18 ft.	44
An account of lathe wanting.	

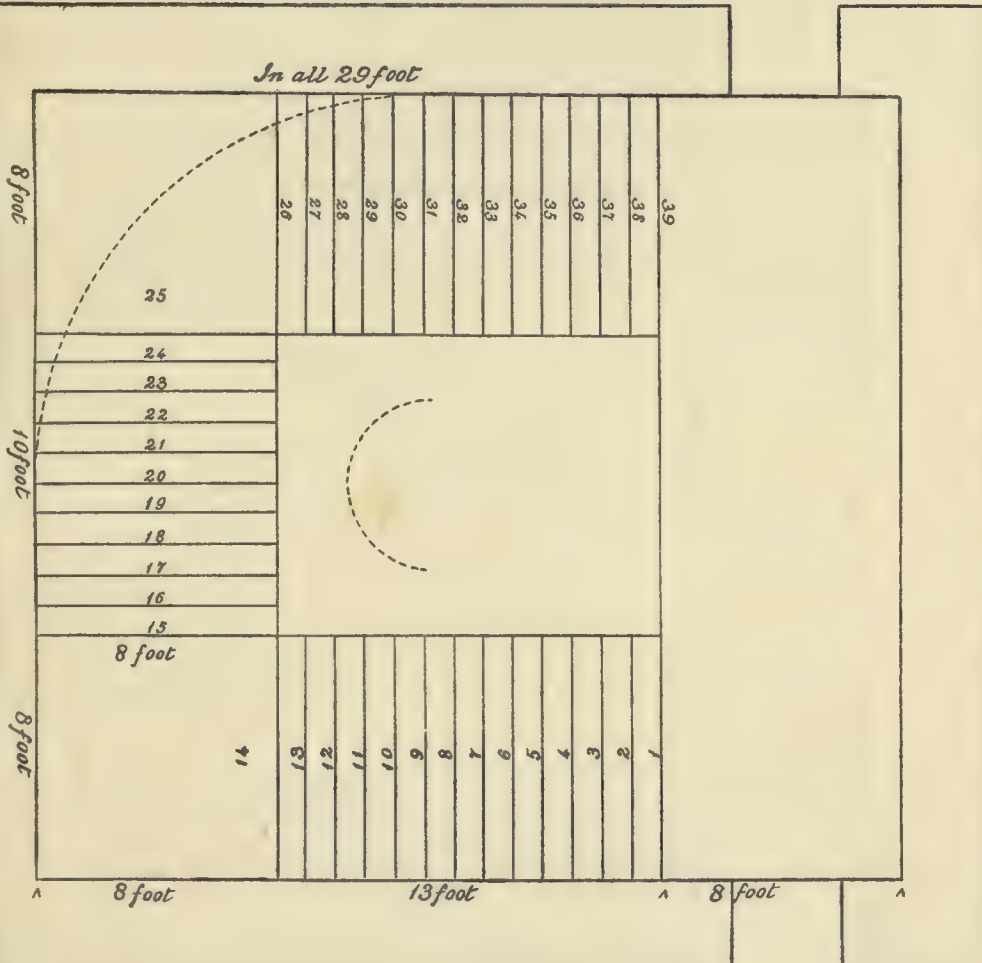
	Bundles.
For one Cloyster for ye House	2
For ye other	2
For that from ye Laundrie to ye Stable ...	6
For ye Stable 12 sceillens at ye South end ...	17
For the partitions at ye North end	90
For ye church if all be new	70
For ye Chancell part and ye additions only ...	33
will doe	
For ye Great Room all ye 6ft. laths at 6 yds	
to one bundles	165
Jan. 11th, 1699	
Lathes for ye Roome of State 56 × 36 ft.	
216 ft	132

Letter to Lord Nottingham from H. Dormer.

"MY LORD,

"I have sent up the Cornish Molds both of the house and of ye dorecases and also some moulds for ye chimneys by Mr. May; who intends to waite upon you either on Tuesday night, or Wednesday morning early; the raile banisters; and raile moulds I think want no altering but is well prepared. The heights and breadths of ye chimneys are below expressed. I have got in some receipts relating to my accounts. I have a note of ye number and price of ye poles yt. came from C. Rockingham; I have given ye heights and of ye Terrasses and Gardens; and intend a small draught to yr. Honour. I am Stocking now half inch boards in the Stable. I have mixed the lime, sand, and dust to make pointing moater, and its dry and like ye ston. I have bargained for some of ye Timber in

Small 26 foot



Face p. 60.

FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

Beaumont chase, to be sawed into boards 18 Quar. I have spoke with Dexter and he will paint the Stable Windows next week. I have summoned Woodley to bring in his bill that we may account about ye iron. I have proportioned ye oval windows and doe find that 60 inches wide will allow of more height than fifty inches to look sweet. I am taking an account daily of the utensils as I find them I have considered what scaffolding will be wanted this next sumor Large Poles called uprights or standers; 50 if not more putt logs there will be found in now in the next sale of underwood. Runners or ledgers a hundred and fifty, fleakes forty dozen more besides dale boards. Chords and old Nailes may be bought in Southwark att Cheap rates. A great rope for takle will be wanted alsoe, besides guy ropes.

"I am your lordship's obedient Servant,

"HENRY DORMER."

' From BURLEIGH, *Oct. 12th. 1695.*"

THE GLASS.

Extracts from the Agreements Concerning the Glass.

Jan. 22nd, 1695.

In this contract Isaac Eales agrees to furnish all such glass as Lord Nottingham should require for his House and outhouses at Burley "for the sash windows eleven foot and eight inches high, crown glass of the best sort flatt and even as is possible and putt the same into frames with the best putty and also on the inside for thirteen pence halfpenny for every pane of such glass; each window containing fifty panes, and also like glass in like manner for the Garrett Windows so as the panes exceed not in size the garrett Windows." The other windows were to have the best kind of Newcastle

glass either square or quarries to be put in lead, the lead was to be of the best sort, "the largest that is anywhere used." Lord N. was to furnish Eales with the lead in Piggs, he was also to provide boxes "wherein the sash windows shall be pack't," to pay for the carriage of the same from London to Burley, and to bear all damage that might happen by the fall of the box or the overturning of the wagon or such like accident.

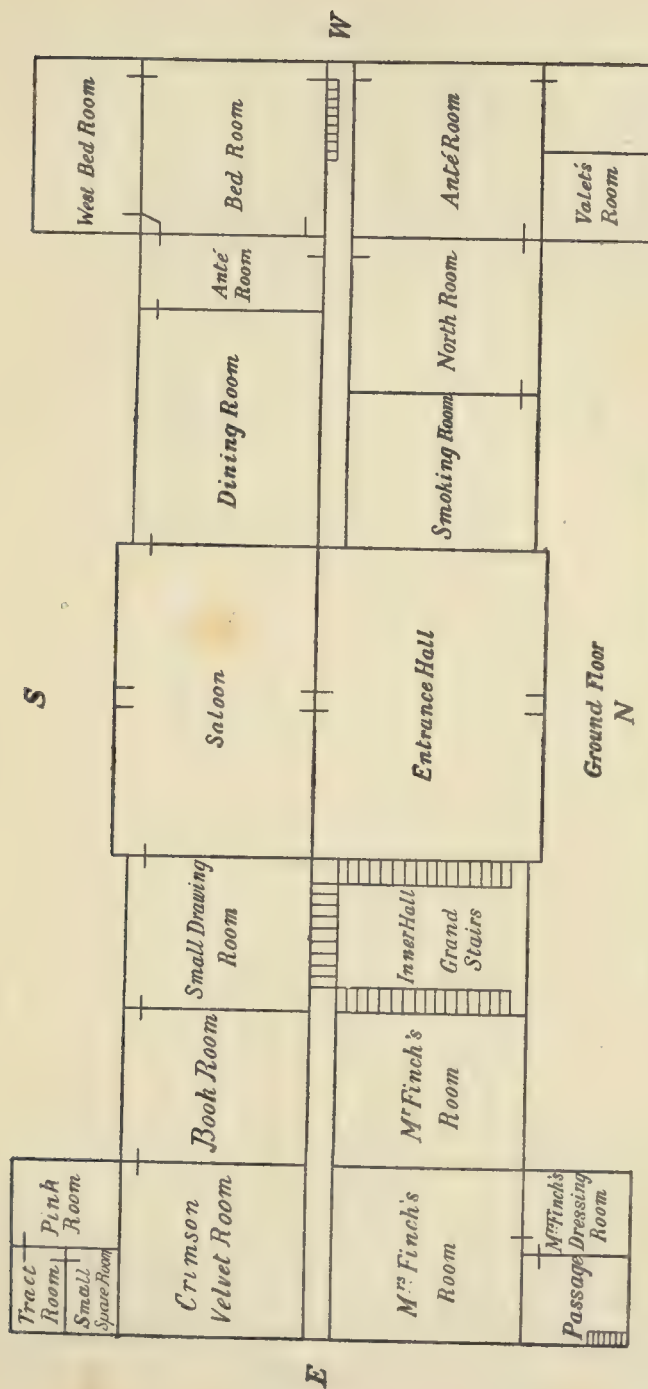
There were 5,900 panes of glass used for the House; and for the Cellar Floor and Offices 702 panes.

A Bill for Glass Worke done for ye Right Honourable ye Earle of Nottingham, at Burleigh, November ye 21st, 1701.

	£	s.	d.
Twenty-four squares of crown glass ...	0	10	0
Twenty-four sash squares ...	0	7	0
For a box ...	0	1	6
Sixty sash squares of crown glass ...	3	7	6
For a box ...	0	2	0
Two men forty days' worke ...	1	0	0
Nine gallons linseed oil ...	1	7	0
White lead ...	0	5	6
Thirty sash square Crown Glass ...	1	4	0
Eight hundred and sixteen foot new glass ...	20	8	9
Paid down ...	1	5	0
Total ...	<u>£39</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>

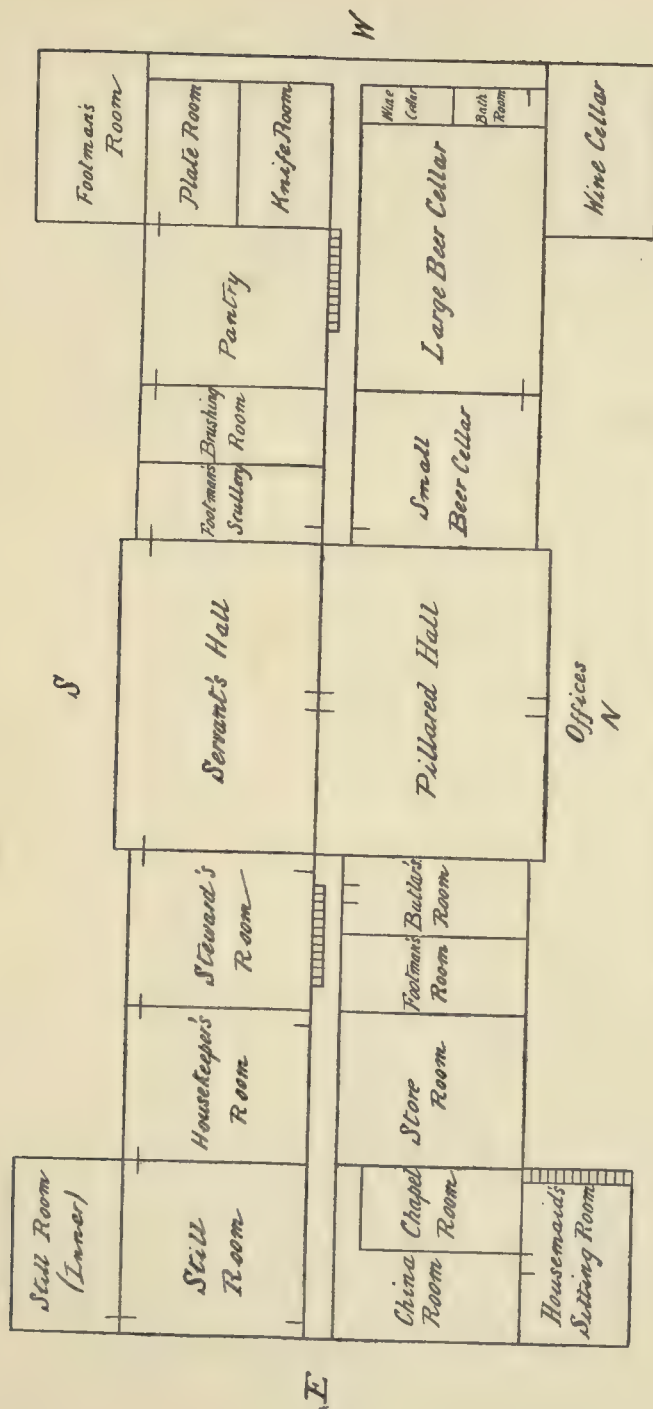
The Lead and Plumbers' Work.

An immense quantity of lead was used, fifty-seven fodder for the roof of the house alone. Only one plumber is mentioned but it is not possible he could have done the entire



FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

Face Offices Plan, p. 62.



FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

Face Ground Floor Plan, p. 62.

work alone. Amongst other things we find "House pipes viz. 12 stacks and 98 ft. 3 ins. Brew house pipe 250. $1\frac{1}{2}$ at rod. Mending ye frosted pipe at 4s. Two great pumps in the Brewhouse both 32 ft. 3 ins. For casting lead for ye small Cisterns in ye House keepers Room and first Hall at 5d. per fodder. Setting up ye old Cistern in ye Still room and putting on a cock in ye Stewards parlour &c. 10s."

PLUMBERS' WORK FROM ACCOUNTS DATED AUGUST 21ST,
1700.

	£	s.	d.
Making six inch pans	0	9	0
Leading a rubbing brush... ..	0	0	6
Taking up ye old lead in ye chancell ...	0	2	6
Taking up ye Lead at ye Library & laying it down again	3	10	0
Laying down ye Lead in ye House pedi- ment	0	2	6
Laying down lead torn up by ye wind &c. &c.	0	3	0

Letter Concerning the Lead.

"MY HONBLE LORD

"I had sooner acknowledged the honour of your Lordships two letters, but that I received them not till I came here, being obliged to come through Lancashire. As to the first my moddell was made by Mr. Fforth the King's joiner, the dimensions of it as neare as I can guesse were about three foot long and about fifteen inches high. As to my lead I believe I told your Lordship that I gave twenty-five shillings a tun cash cashing and licing for my pipe the

contract was made by my servant at twenty five shillings a piece the plumbers finding everie thing but lead, they are handsomelie adorned with mouldings and my house was forty feet high. As to its measure I cannot give your Lpp. a positive account because I thought his demands in the particulars your Lordship mentions of the ceiling under the roof and that within the walls was unreasonable, and so we lump't it and I think the difference was pretty near divided betwixt us. I had none or very few lintells, and I shall hope your Lordship will have none, No window cases, but dore cases I had of which I can give your lordship no price till I come home, counter joice can be no advantage wth. your house in no respect. The partitions deserve four shillings a square if your lpp. find nailes for the floaring I think he may abate something in his price for that was an article wee differed about. Sawing of boards I did allowe and drawing the timber from the yard to the house tho when I came away I was assured that my wife was out of danger, yett I hear since that she is now rather wors so that I shall be forced to come out of Town on Thursday by the stage coach, and if possible will waite upon your Lordship on Saturday night, but however on Sunday next.

"I am with profoundest respect

"My Lord your Lordship's obedient humble servant

"JOHN LOUTHER."

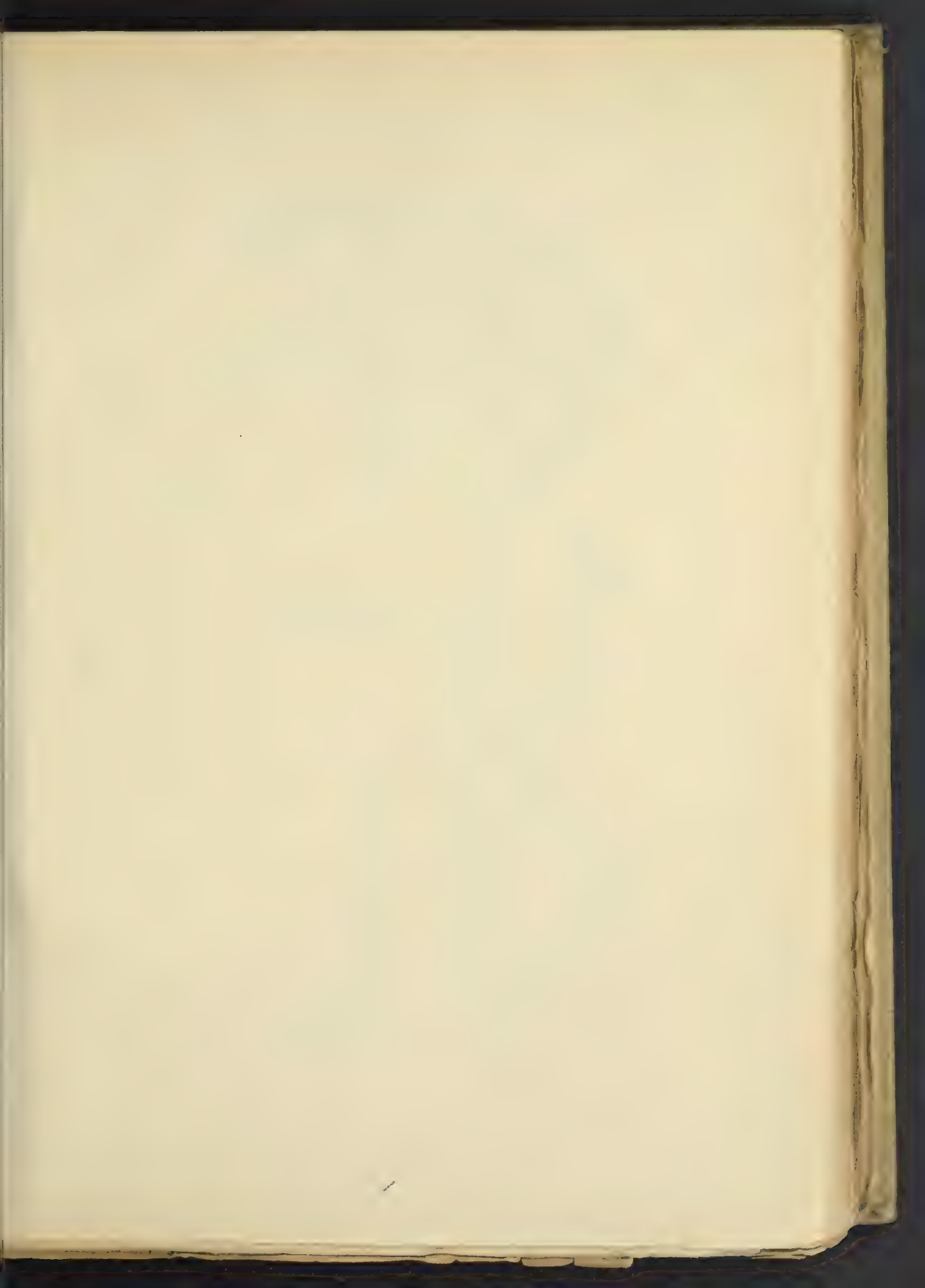
THE ROOF.

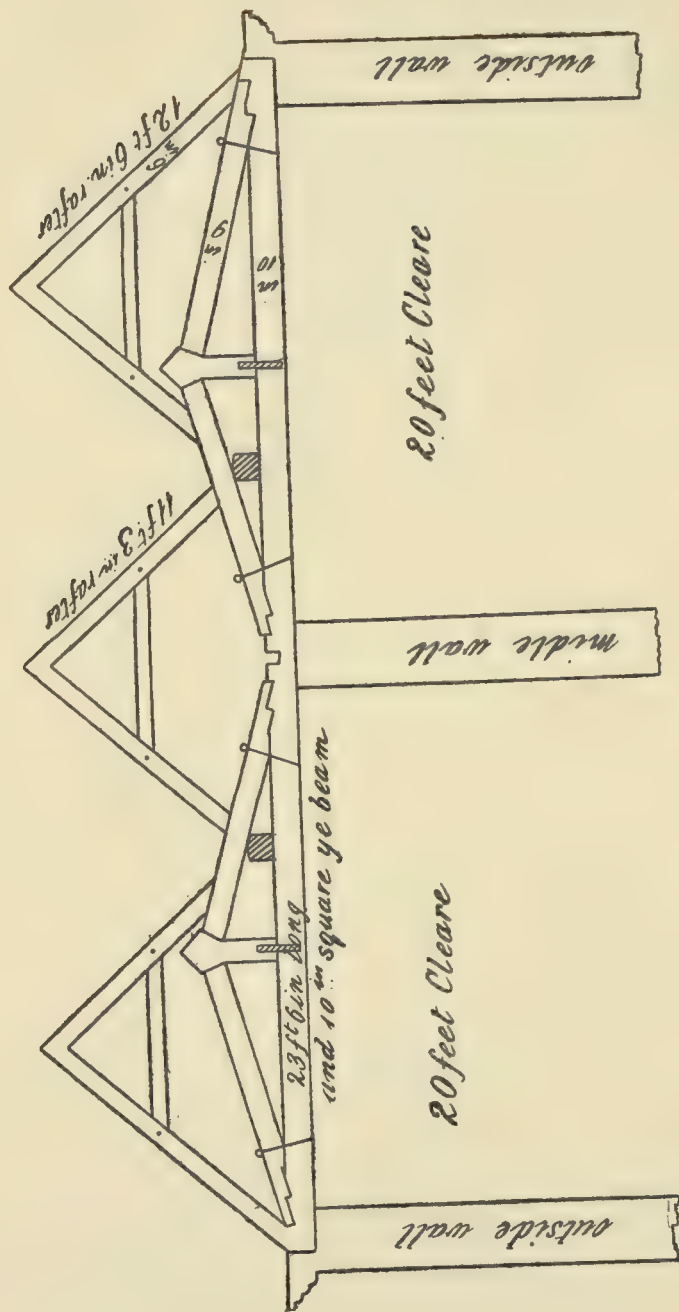
Letters concerning Roof.

No. 1.

"MY LORD,—

"I have sent a ruff Draught of ye Roof if yr. Ldpp likes of it, it will be ye safest to frame it arched as Drew





Face p. 65.

FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

and no Sagg. The rafters should be six inches deep or five inches at least and three inches thick by reason of no principle rafters and purling but only a piece turned over as a ceiling joice. I am verry lame still and could hardly sitt to do it so ruff as it is on ye other side, I hope I shall be able to send ye manner of ye Groyns speedily. I sent your Honour a letter last post Ritt by a neighbour he lett your honour know, I had just received your honour's plan of ye Stables.

"I am your Honour's dutiful servant,

"JOHN LUMLEY."

"NORTHTON, *May 3rd*, 1705."

No. 2.

"This trussed Roof I expect will be stronger than to lay beams over each other to beare ye gutter Beams, for those two trusses will take but neare ye same quantity of timber as two beams will ye beams if not arched will sagg if they are 14 inch. deep and 12 inches broard, these trussin Beams to be 23 ft. long and 10 square, on which lay ye Beams on to ye Baire gutters as ye end are shoven black in ye trusses and may be 12 inch deep and 10 inch broard. The brasses of ye truss to ye King post 9 inch deep and 8 ins. thick."

THE ARMS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE.

Exterior.

"Estimate of the charge of the cipher and corronett £6.

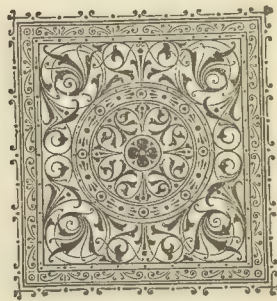
"The Arms Supporters and Crest £35 of one pediment.

"Mr. Norman ye Carpenter for makeing a patern of a griffen 2s. 6d.

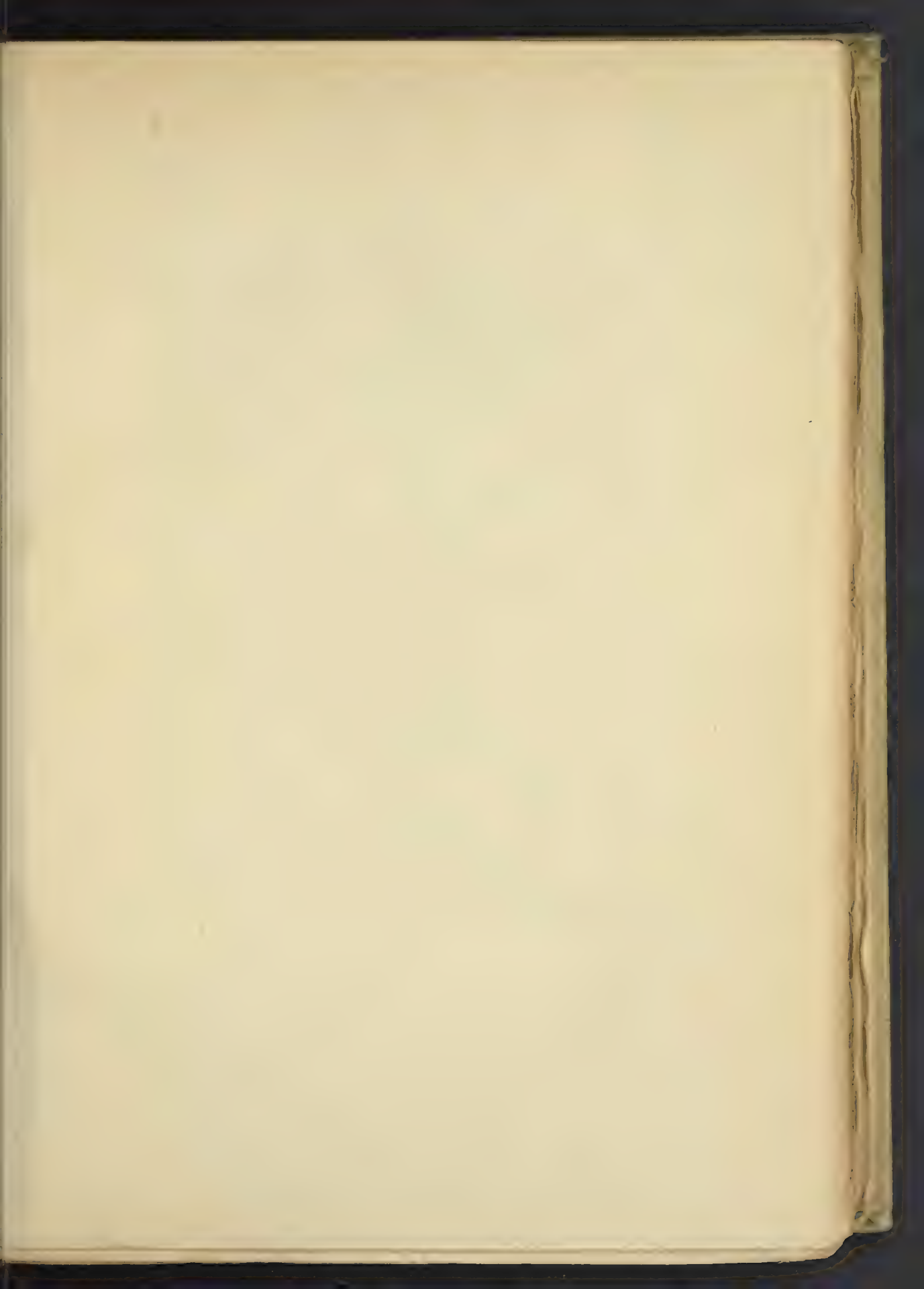
"Paid to Salvitor Musco ye Carver 1698—By carving ye coat of arms on ye North front £10.

"A large flame stone and a man setting tail & wings—10s."

There is a legend concerning the erection of the arms on the house. It is said that while the masons were engaged in this work the scaffolding gave way and they were precipitated upon the stone steps beneath and dashed to pieces. Their remains are said to be buried in the Churchyard. There is certainly a tombstone dated 1710, with some inscription upon it, but it has become indistinguishable with age. On the tombstone are carved tools such as are used by masons, so it is quite possible that this legend is true.



THE INTERIOR—THE GRAND STAIRS.





THE GRAND OR PAINTED STAIRCASE, BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



THE INTERIOR.

The Stairs.

Mr. Gilbert's compilation of wainscott for the Great Stairs and Staircase:—

	Bords. No.	Long. Ft.	Broad Ft. Ins	Long Ins.
For Steps	45	8½	1 3½	1½
For risers and half paces ...	40	8½	11 1	1½
For pannelling	90	12	0 0	0¾
For Ballisters, fourteen two- inch planks	13	0	0 0	0
For Rales 12 planks	14	0	0 0	2½
Two of them fifteen foot long				
Right Wainscott for ye Great Stayers... ..	10 & 15	0 0	0	

The painting upon cloth in the staircase at my Ld. James Russel' in Lincoln's Inn Fields contains between 150 and 160 yds. Was painted by Messrs Hodder for £100 and found cloth was at My Lord's charges.

From this little Extract it would seem that Lord Nottingham first intended to have the walls of the Staircase hung with painted cloth or canvas. He, however, finally settled to have the walls plastered and painted, an

ornamentation which was then greatly the fashion. Most houses built at this time, or even earlier, were decorated in parts after this style (about the time between 1679 to 1700.)

EXTRACT FROM THE ACCOUNT BOOKS.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Lancsroon, ¹ Ye Painter for painting			
the Stair case at Burley	150	0	0
For painting the Hall (the Landing) ...	35	0	0
For Varnish for ye Great Stairs ...	3	6	3
For laying it on	0	0	10
Total	163	16	3

For two Landskips over the doors in the
Great Parlour 10 15 0

These Landscapes now hang in the Long Library; they are of no great merit.

FROM ACCOUNTS.

"April 23rd. 1712. Recd. then of the Earl of Nottingham by the hands of T. Armstrong the sum of one hundred pounds in full of the ballence of this account and of all demands. I say recd. by me—Gerrard Lancsroon."

The receipt is signed by the painter in a very shaky hand. The painting on the walls represents the History of Perseus and Andromeda; the Gorgon Medusa is depicted, also Pegasus, which was one of the Nottingham crests.

¹ A native of Flanders, came over to England and assisted Verrio and Laguerre. Died 1737, leaving a son who followed the same profession. (Byran's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers.)

The Ceiling has Mars riding in the sun and Juno driving her Chariot of Swans, &c. At two of the corners are the Nottingham Arms supported by two female figures, and on the two remaining corners is the cipher D.N., with a coronet and the same supporters.

The colouring on the walls is dull, in fact this painting has small merit, it is inferior to the work of Verrio.

The Chimney Pieces

Few things concerning the building of his House seem to have weighed so heavily on the mind of Lord Nottingham as the Chimney Pieces. Their dimensions, their colour, &c., appear to have caused much anxiety, and he wrote innumerable letters on the subject.

The following rooms have the original mantelpieces in them. The Painted Hall, Dutch Tapestry Room, State Room, Cartoon Rooms, Library, and one or two other bedrooms.

A Note of all the Chimney Pieces at Burley.

The great Parlour—(probably present Saloon). White.

The Roome of Staite (painted Hall). Dove.

The Library. White.

For the 18 foot story; 26—22. Dove.

Chappell Gallery. Dove.

Many more are given, but the colours do not vary.

The dimensions are also given, they are not however, of sufficient interest to be mentioned here.

The Correspondence between Mr. Chapman and Lord
Nottingham Concerning the Mantelpieces.

LETTER NO. I.

“EXTON, NEAR OAKHAM, *May 7th*, 1699.

“MR. CHAPMAN,—

“I shall greatly want the Chimney pieces which I bespoke of you and doe hope you have made some of ym. and will dispatch ye rest, which I desired you to finish first with all speed. The Dimensions which I gave you for each of ym. are right except in these following ones (then follows a list). But for the breadth of ye Moulds and for ye height of these chimney pieces there needs no alteration except only that the three chimney pieces above mentioned which are to be clear within butt there need be but 3ft. 4ins. high in ye clear with ye marble and I shall need no chimney piece for ye North East Pavilion in ye 18ft. story but only a slab of white marble 18ins. broad and 4ft. 11½ins. long wch I pray gett ready. I would have a semicircular basen and cov'd stone for a cock to be sett in my parlour; and this must be of white marble, ye know ye dimensions of which such things are made, and therefore I leave them to you, and for ye price I doubt not but you will use me well, and therefore I desire you to prepare them ready for me. I hope you will gett all ready by ye first week in June when probably I may be in London and design to send from thence some other things, and should be glad to. These things and ye 12 chimneypieces, which I ordered to be first dispatched may

be ready to be sent wth. ym. for it is very inconvenient to me to be disappointed.

"I am,

"Your affectionate Friend,

"NOTTINGHAM."

(Envelope) "to Mr. EDWARD CHAPMAN, at his house in Bedfordshire, near Gray's Inn, London.

(NOTTINGHAM.)"

LETTER No. 2.

"MY LORD,—

"I have received your Lordship's Letter of the 16th instant; as for what your Lordship's servant writt you he either mistook or did not rightly understand me for he saw three chimney pieces ready which I told him that I was ready to send but would rather send them all together; one wagon being sufficient to carry the whole and then I should jam any in the cases and they would carry safer; I promis that I'll make all the hast possible and in a small time the roads will be smother.

"I am with all respect,

"Yr. Ldpp's most humble obedient servant,

"RICHARD CHAPMAN."

"LONDON, *May 21st*, 1709."

LETTER No. 3.

"I received on ye 24th instant and as to yr. Dimensions of ye Chimney pieces I shall observe them as soon as the stone comes in; I have alsoe Mr. Lumley's draught for ye Bason and I doe find it will take four foot of stone to make it, Soe I doe find it cannot be done for less than ten pounds

according to ye draught. I have putt on bord ye Shipp for My Lord five Chimneypieces with slabs and slipps and plints 3 of dove, and 2 of Whight which I hope will come safe I desire to know if yr. Honr. will please lett me know if ye Bason must be made of ye same sort or of any others and I shall observe it and as soon as my stone doth come in I will give Yr. honour an account.

"I am yr. humble servant at command,

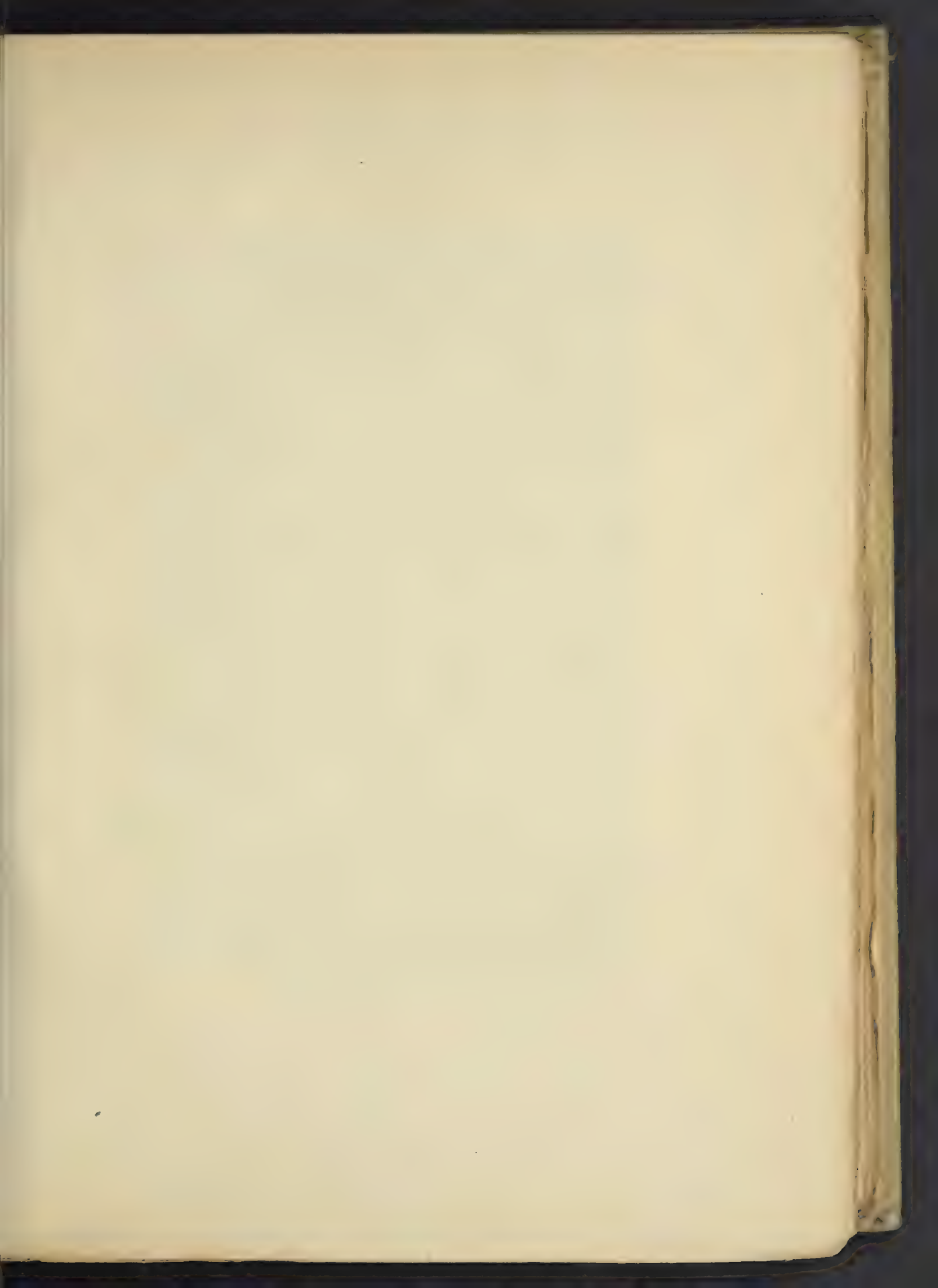
"EDWARD CHAPMAN."

"24th June, 99, LONDON."

LETTER No. 4.

"MR. CHAPMAN,—

"I have yrs. of August 31st, and since you have three chimney pieces ready I have given a note to a waggoner to call for ym. and bring them; you shall know ye person if you ask him his name which is William Watts of Corby. He will come to you on Wednesday night or Thursday morning. I wish you could gett ye slabs to ym. ready by that time, yt. they may be sent wth. ye Chimney-pieces wch. you sent me. The rooms for wch. I at present want more Chimneypieces are :—The library, the North West 28ft. room, the N.W. 26ft. room, the S.W. 26ft. &c. I hope ye three wch. you say are ready are for some of those above mentioned rooms; and lett ye rest for these rooms be first done: and then I shall give you more time for ye remaining ones; I shall have opportunity for more carriage a fortnight hence and I wish you could gett all these, wch. I mention finished by that time. But Mr. Lumley says it will not be convenient to cutt noches in ye slabs and therefore pray keep to ye dimensions of length





THE CRIMSON VELVET ROOM.

171



THE CRIMSON VELVET ROOM.

1871

28

and breadth. I will write to you on Monday about ye Marble bason, when I have considered of ye proposal of its standing upon a Truss.

‘ I am your Affectionate friend,

“NOTTINGHAM.”

Mr. Chapman writes back to say he is “very sorry he cannot dispatch his Lordship’s worke in lesse time.”

Also he says “I hope yor Lordship will consider my price is very small for ye Chappell.”

Novemb^r 28-29 Chapman writes again: “I have received your Ldpp’s Letter and am glad to hear ye peeces are safe come downe which I hope ye chocolate stone is alsoe, as to those peeces yr. Ldpp desires first if it does not freeze too hard they will be done in a month’s time at the furthest and ye peece for yr. Lordship’s Great Parlour is already wraught of finest stone. I was to make one of ye same for ye Honble. Elizabeth Finch.”

Nov. 22nd Lord Nottingham writes, he has “received yt. chimney piece for ye Library, I wish you would tell me what is fitt to be paid ye Mason for that work.”

Later it appears that Chapman has been accused of intemperance for he writes—

“26 *June*, LONDON.

MY LORD,—

“I have received your Lordship’s and am sorry it was not my fortune to speke with your Lordship in Towne I was sober all times at — House, but not in soe son, but sins it is soe long sins I had your Lordship’s orders, I think it will not be amiss if yor Lordship send me ye dimension again, &c. I think it will doe and that there may be a right understanding on both sides.”

With this vague letter ends the correspondence on both

sides concerning the Chimneypieces. It seems possible that Chapman, in spite of his letters to the contrary, was often extremely drunk; the end of the story is not related.

Chapman received for these chimneypieces the sum of £300 11s. 6d.

By Marble pieces delivered at Burley to this 14th of July 1705 £170. By pavement in ye Chappell—Emery and putty 2s £49. 19. 10d. And Marble Bason and truss in ye little Parlour £10. 46ft. of window slab at 4s. 3 cases for ye window slab £1. &c., &c.

The Glasses over the Chimney Pieces and the Long Pier Glasses.

Over each of the mantelpieces in the rooms on the first floor are long narrow looking glasses, and between the windows long pier glasses with borders of cut glass and the Nottingham arms or crest on the top, they are very handsome.

Extract Concerning the Glasses.

The Pier Glasses 10 ft. 5 ins. high containing 3 glasses as followeth: 1 glass 42 ins., 1 glass 36 ins. with border of glass of 5 ins. on the top and 5 ins. on the bottom make the height. The breadth containeth 3 ft. 4 ins. which with the border of 5 ins. the glass might be 30 ins. If the border be plaine cutt it will com to forty-two pounds, if the border be scalloped and the joynts with scalloped glass . . . and corners and the slips over the Great Glass is wraught with flourishing then it will com to £50.

Letters Concerning the Glasses.

LETTER No. 1.

"MY LORD,

"I recd. your Lordships of ye 15th as to ye breadth of ye pannell Glasses they were to be by yr. Ldpp's first directions 3 foote 4 inches cleare viz., 30 ins. ye great glass and 5 ins. slips in ye whole 40 ins. wch is ye same ye now have ordered. The Chimney pieces frames must com soon now wth. ye marble and may be 2 ins. broad so ye frame will take up 4 ins. and each glass 33 ins. I begg ye favor to know when yr. Ldpp. will be in towne, for ye pannell no directions can be given to ye joyners because they are not made as other frames by reason of ye slips on each side, for nothing but careful direction by word of mouth can doe it. I shall take care when I have them that yr. Ldpp. shall find the charge reasonable and shall runn ye ordinary hazard as soon as your Ldpp. desireth, but yr. Ldpp must pay ye men for ye journey yt. I send downe.

"I am Yr. Lordship's most obliged Humble Sarvant,

"RICHARD ROBINSON.

(The men sent down received 4d. and 5d. per day and charge of going down.)

LETTER No. 2.

"*September ye 22nd day, 1711, LONDON*

"MY LORD,

"Ye chimney Glass is redy that your Ldpp. gave me order for I think it will be ye best and safest way to send ye frame by ye wagin and to pack ye Glasses up and to send them by Porters and to put it together in

ye Country it is soe large now it is compleated that it cannot com safe in a wagin. I desire yr. Ldpp's opinion how you would have it brought down by ye next post for I think to set it out in a week's time before ye winter comes when I send your Ldpp's coach glass by ye same journey.

"These from your Lordship's most humble Sarvant,

"THO. HOWCRAFT."

LETTER No. 3.

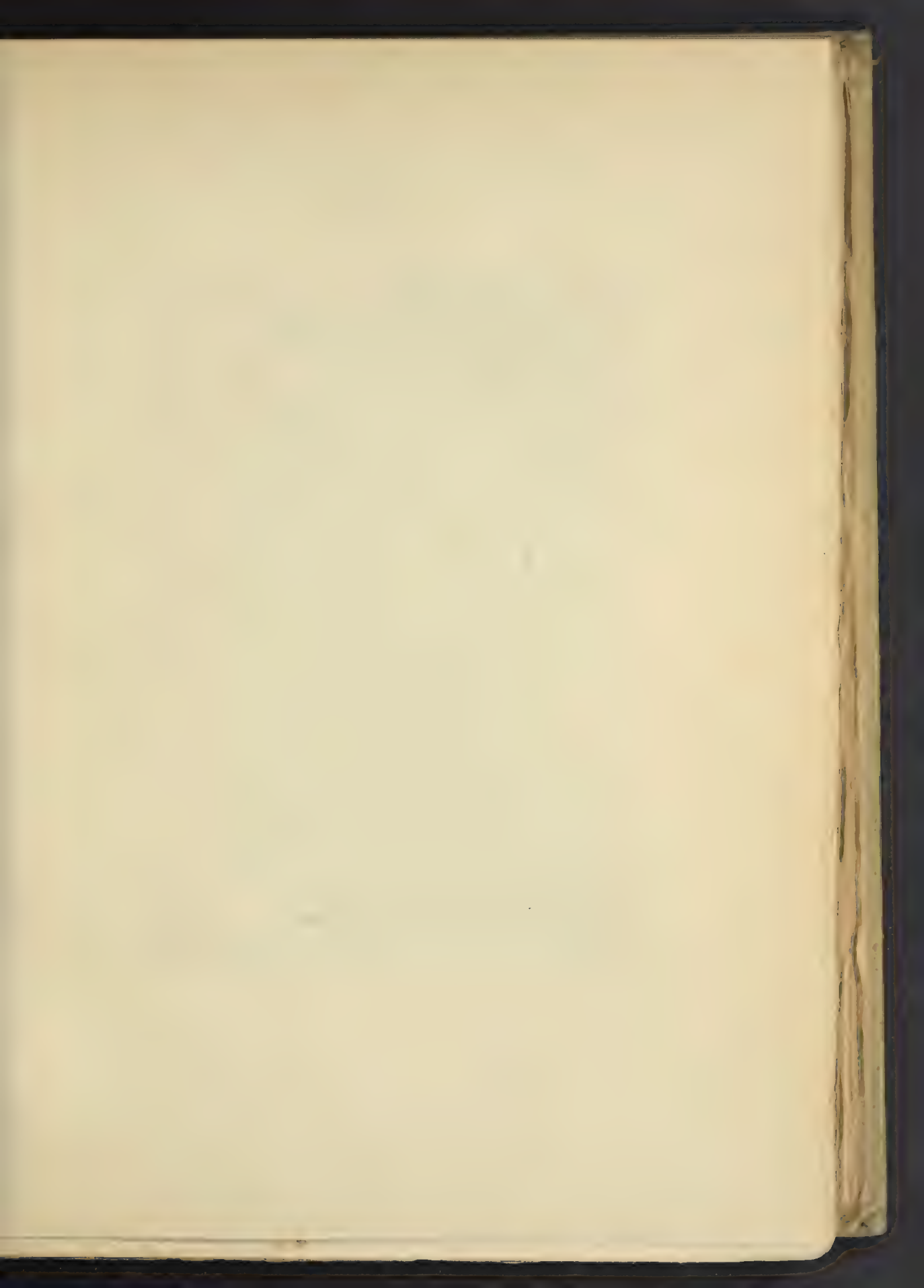
"*September ye 27th day, 1711, LONDON.*

"MY LORD,

"I received your Lordship's letter as for ye wood frame it was made according to ye drafts and in order to fix ye glasses and borders and gilt frame. I have bin with ye Waginer and he says that in case the wagin should overturn or any other casolity should happin that he will not stand to ye loss of any glasses; therefore My Lord my opinion is that t'will be ye safest way to bring ye glasses by mon and it will be but labor mor compleated, that it would be a great pity that it should come to any damage as for ye gilt frame I have made that in joynts so that I do design to send them in a box by ye Wagin. My Lord it was impossible for me to make ye chimneypiece without making ye wood frame first, I have sent ye wood frame by Pon ye carrier and your Lordships Coach glass in ye box that came with ye coach frame. My Lord I humbly desire your Lordships opinion by ye next post for it is all redy to send away and I design that it may be brought down before ye bad weather com, and this is all at present From

"Your Humble Sarvant,

"THOMAS HOWCRAFT."



Lady's
Lodging
Room

20. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.



THE SALOON.



THE SALOON.

BILLS FOR THE GLASSES.

No. 1. The Earl of Nottingham's bill for glass, October.

Ye 13th day 1711.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| For one glass plate | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| For two glass plates | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| For sholoping ye end glasses and cutting
ye scoops | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| For ye Coat of arms | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| For 23 foot of glass Border six inches
at seven and sixpence per ft. ... | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| For ten Guilt Roasors (roses) at five
shillings | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| For ye Woodwork of ye frame and
carving and guilding ye frame ... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Ye carriage by porters | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| For my man putting it together 14 days
at 2s. 6d. | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| For myself coming down | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total is | £82 | 1 | 6 |

No. 2. Glass for ye Great Room.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Middle glass | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Two side glasses | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Twenty-three foot of boarders at 12s.
13s. and 5s. | | | |
| Ten gilded roses at 4s | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Carriage to Burley | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| A Bill of days work | 7 | 10 | 0 |

October ye 1st. 1711, to ye Earle of Nottingham for Glass.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| For 1 coach Glass | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| For Boxis and packin | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| For one coach glass | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| For mendin 1 coach frame | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| A bill delivered | 82 | 1 | 6 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | £85 | 10 | 6 |

Extract from an Account Book.

Paid Mr. Williams on acct. for 2 chimney glasses and case to pack them in £24. Paid Mr. Williams for two chimney glasses and in full of all demands, £34. 1709.

The finest of these glasses is in the Painted Hall over the mantel piece, it has a coloured border.

THE BEER CELLARS AND BREWHOUSE.

Agreement between Lord Nottingham and John Dexter of Harringworth.

In this contract John Dexter agrees to make "sixty-two vessels or stands each to contain two hogsheds at least, of the best oak and hoop'd with oak hoops in the best manner for the summe of sixty pounds and also to make as many more such vessells as the said earl should require" for the same price. Dexter was likewise to make "several fatts coolers and other utensils and vessells belongin to a brew-house," and "to repair and putt into good condition various other vessells belonging to the Brewhouse at Burley." Lord Nottingham was to supply the deal for the mending. April 6th, 1700.

Bill I.

The Right Honble. Earle of Nottingham his bill for work done by John Dexter :—

September ye 18th, 1707.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| For a new Barril | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| For mending and hooping | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| For a hoope on the Kitchen tub | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| May ye 20th 1708, for six new butts | 5 | 14 | 0 |
| For a new fatt | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| For six old butts mending | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| For a hoop of a trunk in the Bothouse | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| For a hoop of the wash tub in the
Laundrie | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Sixty-two butts to be delivered at 60 ft. a new guile fatt for ale £7.

William Walker for Laying a foundation in ye Brew-house to support the Cooler 14s. The walls of ye Brewhouse and Slaughter House 16s. 2½d. The rough ashler of the Brewhouse 4s. 11½d. Beam filling in ye Brewhouse, £1. 3s. 8¼d.

The Strong Beere Cellar.

| | Ft. | Ins. |
|---|-----|------|
| One Thrawl for two Butts at East end | 9 | 0 |
| One Thrawl for three Butts at East end | 6 | 0 |
| One more for two at East end | 12 | 0 |
| One Thrawl for ye South side two barrills
5 butts | 12 | 0 |
| One Thrawl to stand in ye middle to beare
4 butts | 12 | 0 |
| Wanting to be made for ye strong Beere
Cellar | 45 | 9 |

The Small Beere Cellar.

| | | | Ft. | Ins. |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| The South side is all made but | ... | ... | 6 | 10 |
| The North side to ye pipe | ... | ... | 89 | 6 |
| Also wanted at ye West end | ... | ... | 6 | 0 |
| &c., remains to be made new in length | ... | ... | 83 | 0 |

Other measurements are given but it would be wearisome to quote them all. From the Bills, &c., it would appear that the old Cellars of Buckingham's house were rebuilt or restored, the Brewhouse also seems to have existed.

There is a rough little plan of the Cellars with a few Barrels dotted about, among the Plans of the rest of the building.

The Plastering and Painting.**MEMORANDUM.**

"Frances Green agrees to lathe and Plaster with two coats and stop and white ye same and find all materials for ninepence per yard square. The lathes are to be of oak and hearth lathe. The hair to be new hair and of the best sort. The lime and sand to be mixed in full proportions as will make ye strongest and best work. And for plastering in like manner upon reeds with Oak heart lathes and whitening ye same sixpence per square yard. He is to allow one of ye said prices, ye cost of ye Lathe and reeds and also four pence per Bushall. And four rendering ye wall with two coates and whitening ye same he shall have fourpence per yard he finding all materials.

(Signed)

"NOTTINGHAM,"

"FRANCIS GREEN."

FROM ACCOUNTS.

By Lath work and rendering at the House and offices.
For burning plaster and laying plaster floors £14. 14s. 5d.

The Paint.

FROM ACCOUNTS DATED 1697.

"Peter Hall ye Painter received by painting the sash windows three times at a farthing per square each viz., 5,864 squares at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. £18. 6s. 6d. Mr. Goddard ye Painter by painting work, viz., 48 windows at 12d., 16 doorcases at 8d., 403 $\frac{1}{2}$ windows at 12d., 11 doorcases at 8d., 473 $\frac{1}{2}$ windows at 12d., 31 doorcases at 8d., 123 sash frames at 6d., 104 casements at 2d., 16 yards of ironwork by the bowling green at 6d., 25 yards Church yards gates, &c., £17."

Memorandum in Lord Nottingham's Writing.

"Earl of Nottingham and Charles Blunt of Nottingham, Painter yt. for all such painting as ye said Earl shall require to be done at Burley in Rutland by ye said Charles Blunt, he shall perform ye same after ye best manner and with ye best materialls at ye rates following, viz. :—

"All sorts of plaine colours laid three times in oyle for sixpence for every square yard, and likewise all white colours for window frames and outside for the same price. Oak Wainscott Colours groined and lay'd three times in oyle proper for ye said colours for eightpence for every square yard. December ye 28th, 1695. Charles Blount lives near ye Week-day crosse in Nettlerd."

MEMORANDUM.

"The Account between the Earl of Nottingham and me being this day and the balance paid. I do hereby promise

that in case any mistake be found in the casting up the dimensions to my Lord's prejudice, I will make his Lpp. satisfaction for the same. I am also to finish the Clossit under the great Stairs the same being paid for in my account.

"CHARLES BLUNT."

"*November 20th, 1702.*

Mr. Blunt painted the following, viz. :—

The 16ft. story, this included the "west passage, east passage, Hall, Library, Chappell, seats, altar and gallery, east stairs, west stairs, altogether 2,068 yards 4 ft. at 8d., Garrets, "Cellar story" which comprised "Library, Passage under ye Library, West end passage, Butler's chamber, Servants' hall, the first Hall, the Stairs, the Steward's Parlour, 14 doors 4,300 yards at 6d. Kitchen and Laundry offices, ye Servant's Bedroom, under ye Chapel Room, the Pantry Hatches, the stone Stairs by ye cellars, the Garden House of Office, Kitchen and Laundry Cisterns, 910 yards 7 ft. at 6d."

"At T. Armstrong's House, viz. :—

"The Parlour, the hall, pantry door, the drawingroom, the bedchamber 203 yds. 17 ft. at 6d. Doors, viz. :—

"Small Beer cellar, to ye circular passage, kitchen, circular passage, to ye scullery, to the pastry, to the bakehouse, to the Spicery, brewhouse kitchen office, westside, Kitchen great cloyster, west Laundry passage to ye laundry, cow yard, to the dairy, to the washhouse, to the bakehouse, to the stove room 1,717 ft. 1 in. Ironing room, the laundry cistern, to ye coal hole under ye steps to ye churchyard, to ye garden house, to ye two porters lodges. Bottle cellar, passage by ye wine cellar, thence to the beere cellar, to the wine cellar, the strong beer cellar, to the plate room, 4 stable doors, 2 great arch doors, to ye leads of ye House, &c.

"Rails and Ballisters. At ye altar in ye chappell, chappell balisters, lady Mary's apartment, rails and pins for Leather buckets, the pantry presses, 12 church window lights, the church north door, &c. From Pallisters by ye Bowling green, East iron gates, Iron rails on ye North stairs. In the stables the iron bars on the North stairs, the mellon frames in the gardens, the steeple, the church dyalls, putting ye coach into black. In ye Saloone three sash windows. Bowling green house outside. Lodge Gates made by My Lord."

It is impossible to give the entire list of the Painting done by Blunt, therefore the most interesting items have been selected.

THE KEYS, LOCKS, HINGES AND NAILS.

Mr. Wilkes ye Locksmith for making one Master key, £2. 2 double bitt keys (My Lord's and My Lady's) 2 ditto Mr. Armstrong. 1 ditto Mrs. Sawyer, 1 plain Master Key, 10 Park Locks, with sliding staple. 6 Barr locks for the park, 4 ditto for ye Court yard, ditto for the garden, ditto for the Stable.

Locks.

50 Brass, 112 great bitt, 52 little bitt, My Lady Mary's Key.

Latches—23 brass at 5s. 2 large at 5s. 3 at 4s. 50 ordinary at 2s. 6d.

Hinges.—55, 111, &c. Bolts.—Bolts ordinary 12 long, 2 Brass neck staples, 8 pair of tongs, 7 fire shovells, press locks, My Lord's, T. Armstrong's, 36 for Bins, 120 wood Screws, 2 Brass Knockers for ye Hall door, 12 ffiles, 36

dog couplers, 300 nails at 7d. Given the Locksmith for his Journey £3. 10s. 3d., given to his son by My Lord's order a guinea.

MEMORANDUM.—That of this account, 1 pair of large hinges, 1 large iron latch are not yet received, also that eight broken keys wch Mr. Wilks takes with him are to be mended in this account.

Total paid Mr. Wilks, £211. 1s. 6d.

Mr. Thomas Cook of Nottingham for Nails.

1625. 18 stone of nails at 5s. 3d. carriage to Melton 2s. 2 baggs 1s. 6d. Oct. 18 a stone and 2 bags, ditto March and May. June 36 stone and 4 bags. Entire amount 88 stone and 12 bags £75.

“MR. PHILPOTT YE SMITH,—

“For eight rivets, bolts, for mending a key, 5 pair of joints, for 10 screws, for 2 ditto for ye Jack, for a new Coal rake, fire shovells, tongs and doggs, mending ye new engine crank, altering old hinges, for a hasp and staple for ye Rush pitt gate, for cleaning the Jack 8d. mending an axe to cleave wood, making a new blade for my Lord's pockett Knife 6d. 24 blades to ye silver hafts, 30 screws for sashes, mending ye silver Warming pan 2s. a wind to ye Jack 5s. 6d. a new wind to ye clock 1s. 6d. cleaning ye blunder buss pistols 1s. 6d. cleaning the steel mill, putting new lines to ye Jack &c. £91. 14s.”

Among the old plans are designs for the different keys all differently numbered, which shows how very carefully each item was thought out.

THE PAINTED HALL.²¹

Clean Deals for flooring ye Great Room three hundred, for Wainscott for ye Great Room $2\frac{1}{2}$ of 14ft. yellow Christiana $\frac{1}{3}$ of 12ft. ordinary Sweed Deals.

Lewes Wortledge Plastering ye Great Room, 876ft. and $\frac{1}{2}$ at $3\frac{1}{2}$ £12. 13s.

This room is of great size, being sixty feet long and forty feet broad. It is half the height of the house and the entire breadth. The walls and ceiling are painted in fresco as was then much the fashion, the subjects being Julius Cesar, and the various events of his life. The frescoes were executed by Lanscroom. Near the door, as you enter from the grand staircase are two little figures representing Lord Finch and his sister Lady Essex Finch, the children of Lord Nottingham; they are said to have watched the artist at work and were put by him in his fresco.

From the MSS. concerning the Building.

Direction. "Lanscroom at Mr. Camells House next dore to ye sign of ye Hatt in Tower street nere ye seven Dyils St. Giles."

Mr. Lanscroom by painting ye great room £350 besides the primer. From accounts 1708. Given to Devoto Mr. Lanscroom's man £1. 1s. 6d. given to Richard Pitt one of Mr. Lanscroom's men £1. 1s. Paid Mr. Lanscroom ye Painter for priming the Great Room £16, for painting ditto £350. Given to Mr. Lanscroom £19. 8s. 9d. Total for Great Room £385. 8s. 9d.²²

²¹ Owing to the numerous windows in this room it has been found impossible to take a photograph of the interior.

²² The receipt is signed "Gerrard Lanscroom."

The chairs in this room were worked by Lady Nottingham and her daughters; as there are a good many of them, and they are large, it must have kept the poor ladies very busy. They appear to have continued working even after marriage, for Lady Essex Mostyn, in one of her letters to her mother, mentions that she is sending the chair, and she hopes her mother will approve. The ottomans in the centre of the room were worked by Queen Charlotte and given by her to Lady Charlotte Finch (governess to the royal children). It is not known what game of cards is represented on them, but possibly the Queen imagined a game for herself.²⁸ The glass over the mantelpiece has been already mentioned, and is considered a magnificent specimen of its kind.

No clue can be gathered from the accounts or letters what this room was built for, probably it was used as a large reception or banqueting hall. The floor is only supported by one girder and this makes dancing on it an impossibility.

The Tapestry.

The following is written in the handwriting of Lord Nottingham:—

The Months to be made after the patern of those in the Queen's Drawing room at Windsor, as fine as those except gold and silver instead of which must be silk. The depth must be 12ft. 4½ins. including ye Border for ye top and bottom and for breadth ye seven all pieces must be as follows:—

1 piece of January 8-10. 2nd piece of February and March.

²⁸ It is supposed to be Bézique.



STATE BED ROOM.
SHOWING THE TAPESTRY AFTER *Raphael's* CARTOONS.

14-10. 3rd pieces April and May 14-10.

4th piece June and July 17.

5th piece August and September 15.

6th piece October and November

7th piece of December 9-10.

8th piece of Time 9-7.

These tapestries no longer hang at Burley; it is possible that they were destroyed, sold, or perhaps left away from the house. In a catalogue dated 1772, the following is mentioned:—" Hangings Tapestry; subject, a vintage with boys "; no doubt one of the Months. This same catalogue also mentions that various tapestries "worthless" were thrown away. It is very distressing to find how much then considered worthless was at this time destroyed or spoilt through ignorance.

Suites of tapestries called the Months were made at Munich. It is, however, more probable that these mentioned here were worked at Mortlake or Brussels. Several of this subject were made at this period, one set belonged to Cardinal Mazarin; the series consisting of six pieces each representing two Months, with a border of festoons, cartouches, and the cipher of the King of England in the border. Amongst others who possessed a set was Bishop Williams of York, who paid the sum of £2,500 for them.

Tapestries of the Triumphs of Julius Cæsar.

The Triumph hangings consist of five pieces, each 9 wide 9-8. The borders of them are 1-6 but those which I had were reduced to on ye side 1-1½ top and bottom 1-2.

Between ye doors long 10ft. 10ins.

My Lord's Bedchamber next ye dressing room long 9ft; behind ye bed 15ft. long.

The Triumphs of Julius Cæsar containing borders of five ells one quarter and a half at three pounds per ell. Total sum £166. 2s. 6d. The pieces of the Triumphs of Julius Cæsar contaigne in the Borders fifty five ells and a halfe, at three pounds per ell come to £166. 10s. 7d. For cleansing 182 ells and a halfe of old work at 6d. per ell comes to £4. 11s. 3d.

Extract in the Writing of Lord Nottingham.

The Borders of the Triumphs hangings must be on both sides and at top and bottom, each border to be so wide as to add to the present dimensions of each piece fifteen inches. I reckon each piece with ye border is 9ft. square and when ye Borders are added each piece must be 11ft. 6ins. square.²⁴

The Tapestry of Hero and Leander.

MEASUREMENTS.

| | | Ft. | Ins. |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----|------|
| June 14th, 1707. | 1. Father, Leandre, Ship | 15 | 10 |
| | 2. The Temple ... | 9 | 9 |
| | 3. The Great Swimmer | 9 | 9 |
| | 4. Hero and Leandre | | |
| | both dead ... | 15 | 10 |

The Depths. The first piece to have both Borders. The second only ye right hand Border. The third only ye left hand Border. The fourth to have both Borders.

July 21st, 1708. The piece of the Ship containg thirty five ells. The piece of the Temple containg twenty two ells a quarter and a half a quarter.

²⁴ These tapestries shared the fate of the Months and they are no longer at Burley-on-the-Hill.



THE ENTRANCE HALL.
SHOWING HERO AND LEANDER TAPESTRY.

The peece of the Swimmer twenty one ells three quarters and a half.

The peece of the dead containg thirty five ells.

The Ship 35. The Temple $22\frac{1}{4}-\frac{1}{2}$. Ye Swimmer 21-31.

The Dead 35. Total 114 $\frac{1}{2}$.

| | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|----|
| For Goeing | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 17 | 6 |
| For Canvas | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| For a Box & carriage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 14 | 6 |

The Bills for this Tapestry.

1707 Paid Mr. Demay ye Tapestry maker on account of Leandre Hangings £50. 1708 Mr. Demay more on account of Leandre Hangings £50. Paid Mr. Demay in full for the hangings of Hero and Leandre, viz., £30. Total £130 (equal to about £390 now).

This tapestry hangs in the Entrance Hall; it was formerly in a bedroom on the first story. Unfortunately the marks by which the manufactory can be traced have either been removed or have never existed. There is, however, no doubt the pieces were manufactured at Mortlake, as this particular subject was only woven in England. According to some writers the manufactory did not survive the Revolution (1668). However, from these accounts it would seem a factory of some sort did still exist at this period.

In "A Short History of Tapestry," by E. Muntz, is the following:—

"Warrant to pay Sir Frances Crane £2,872 for three pieces of tapestry, one the History of Hero and Leandre, containing 284 Flemish ells at 6d. per ell 1636. 9th of March."

The Dutch or Flemish Tapestry.

This tapestry, of which there are seven pieces, hang in two rooms, viz., the Small State Dressing Room and the Dutch Tapestry Room (unfortunately one piece in the Small State Room has been cut and joined to two pieces of another subject). They formerly belonged to William Finch, second son of Lord Nottingham; and hung in his house at Savile Row. On his death they were bought in at the sale of his furniture, &c., by his wife, Lady Charlotte. Henrietta Finch (daughter), in a letter to her sister, refers to it thus:—"The sale of goods was over that day, it is torment to think how ill some of the things went. The fine Tapestry in the Bed-Chamber was going for 40s. Mr. Darton bid it up to £4 and got it. Mama finding the tapestry went so ill bought in that, that used to be in the room, herself." Lady Charlotte gave it to her son George, ninth Lord Winchelsea for Burley. Each piece has a coat of arms on the top of the border, but whose they were is not known. On the edge of the bottom border is the following: two B's and a shield, the Brussels Tapestry mark, and "Judocus de Vos," the name of the maker.²⁵ The subjects are rural and the designs by Teniers.²⁶

Tapestry of the Raphael Cartoons or Apostle Hangings.

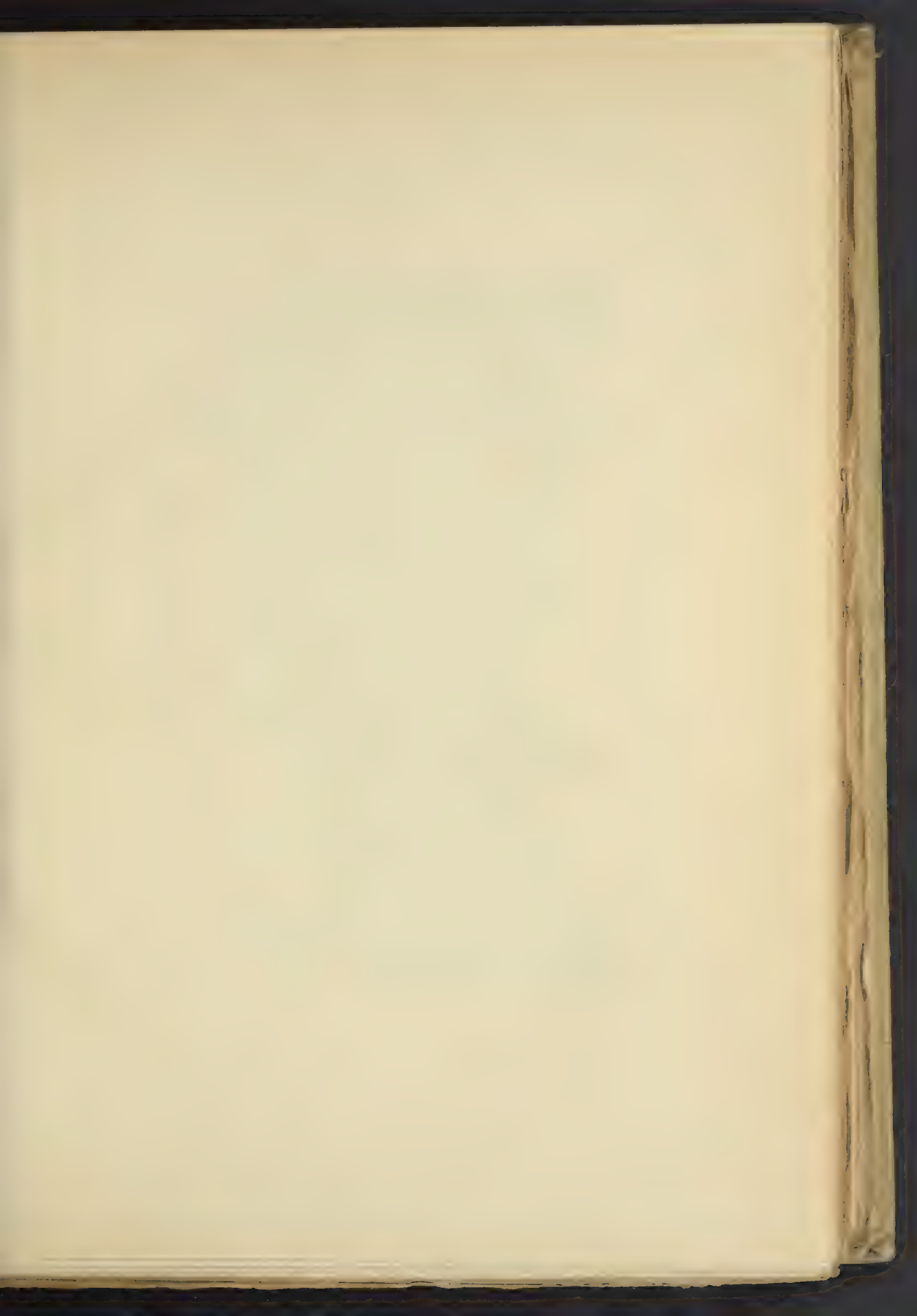
THE MEASUREMENTS.

The number of feet and inches in ye nine pieces.

| | | | Ft. | Ins. |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Paul preaching is in compass | ... | ... | 10 | 6 |
| The Fishing piece is in compass | ... | ... | 15 | 11 |

²⁵ Made obligatory in 1528.

²⁶ A suite of Teniers was exhibited in 1882 at the Palais de l'Industrie. Some are also at the Museum in Madrid.





DUTCH TAPESTRY ROOM.



DUTCH TAPESTRY ROOM.



SMALL STATE DRESSING ROOM.

TAPESTRY FROM THE DESIGN OF *Teniers*. MADE IN BRUSSELS.

| | | | Ft. | Ins. |
|---|-----|-----|------|------|
| The Sacrifice is in compass | ... | ... | 18 | 15 |
| Elimas the blind is in compass | ... | ... | 15 | 11 |
| The piece of the Sheep is in compass | ... | ... | 10 | 2 |
| The piece of our Saviour is in compass | ... | ... | 5 | 4 |
| The Temple is in compass | ... | ... | 20 | 10 |
| Saphiera is in compass | ... | ... | 20 | 6 |
| Annanus is in compass | ... | ... | 25 | 6 |
| The number of feet in ye nine pieces | | | | |
| amount to | ... | ... | 142 | 7 |
| The depth of all ye pieces is | ... | ... | 12 | 7 |
| The total number of feet in the nine pieces | | | | |
| amounts to | ... | ... | 1705 | 22 |

A great many other measurements are given but they are too numerous to be all repeated here, such as "Measure from St. Pauls Sleeve and ye head inclusively to 1 inch beyond ye ear of the Sea Greene man inclusively," &c., and "from ye hinder part of Saint Pauls garment to ye end but leave out the first breadth next to Saint Paul and note that ye border is to be on ye left hand as you look upon the Tapestry when hung up. And let ye coat of arms be in ye middle of ye piece. Viz., Ye part of it wch could be ye middle if ye other Border were added, the foot of ye green man carrying Saphiera and the black man must be made whole." These directions are in Lord Nottingham's writing.

Letter from Lord Nottingham concerning his Tapestry
(unsigned).

"August 23rd, 1700.

"These three pieces following must be enlarged in which care must be taken first that the Coat of Arms in ye upper

border and ye Blank space in ye bottom border be placed in ye middle of each piece when enlarged to ye following dimensions.

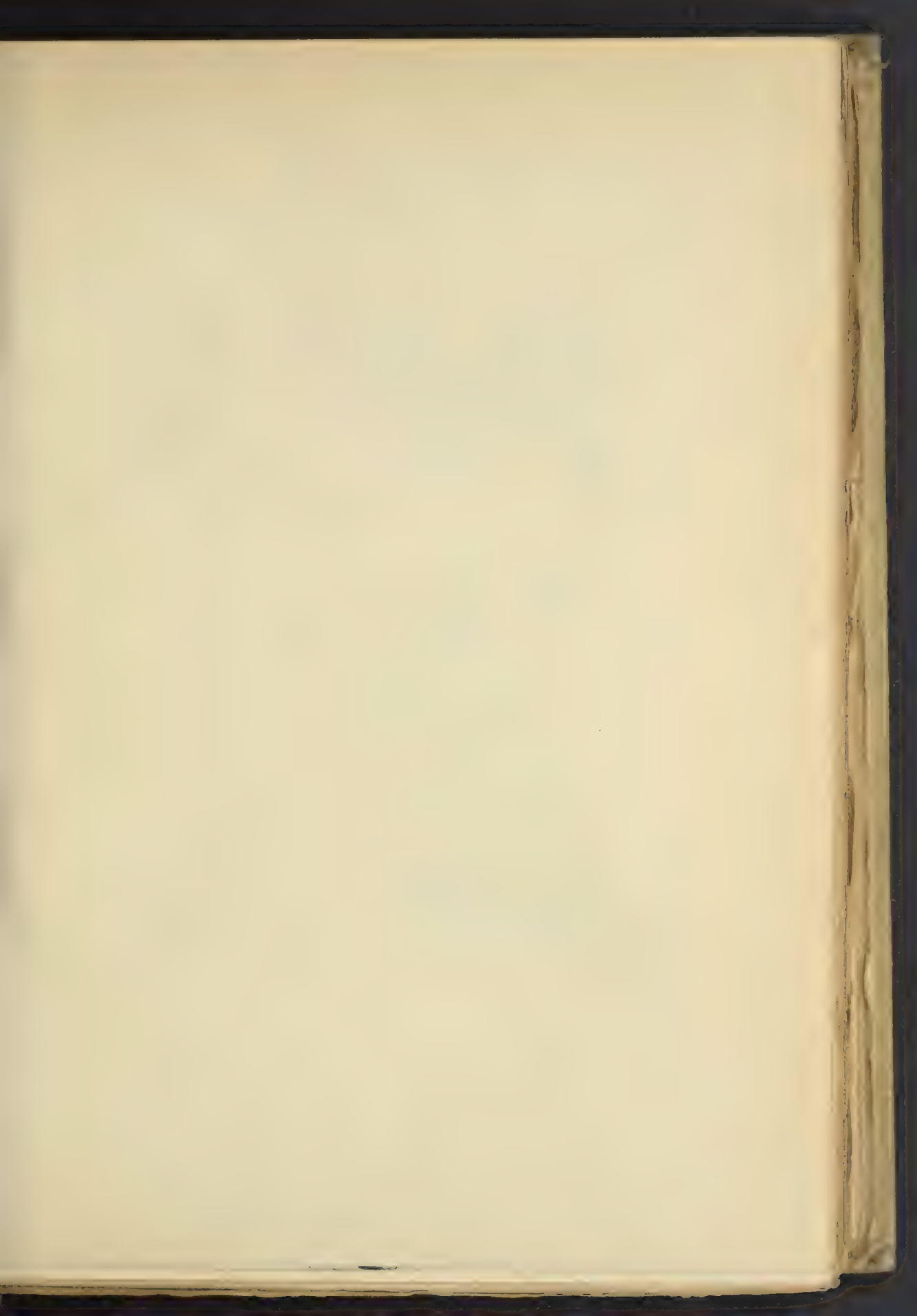
"Secondly ye addition to each piece must be taken out of ye cartoon of the same piece, if there be enough in ye cartoon to enlarge to ye dimensions herein after directed, and in this case either add all that yt is wanting to make up the dimensions, to one side of ye piece of hangings or part of one side and ye rest on ye other according as you find best, taking ye Border part of ye Cartoon which is not yet in ye hanging, for such addition; but if there should be enough in any of ye three cartoons to make up ye piece of hangings to ye dimensions required, choose out of ye other cartoons such figures as will best quite wth ye piece wch is to be enlarged. To the piece of the Sacrafice sow on a piece of girt web, one half loose from ye hanging to ye middle in ye corner of ye room at ye distance of 8-7 from ye left hand."

"Letter from Demay, ye Tapestry Maker."

LETTER NO. I.

"MY LORD,—

"According to your Lordship's orders I went on Thursday last to ye Inn to fetch the hangings for fear they should receive any damage by the weate, but the Carrier did not come till last Saturday, I went againe this Saturday and had them brought home. I found they were damaged. I put them upon the Looms and had them thoroughly dry they are now verry well come to themselves. If your Lordship would be pleased to send me the Dimensions of the





LARGE STATE DRESSING ROOM.
SHOWING THE TAPESTRY AFTER *Raphael's* CARTOONS.



LARGE STATE DRESSING ROOM.
SHOWING THE TAPESTRY AFTER *Raphael's* CARTOONS.

Months for I have several men that play for wanting of work which is a charge to me.

"My Lord, Your Lordship's most Humble Servant

"STEPHEN DEMAY."

"LONDON, *ye 7th of September, 1701.*"

LETTER No. 2.

"MY LORD,—

"I make bold to acquaint your Lordship that ye Cartoons are done according to your Lordship's Dimensions. If his Lordship would be pleased to send me how I must start them down I shall follow your Lordship's order accordingly. I have got ye scratches of ye fine French Roles, and if your Ldpp will be pleased to have them sent down with ye hangings it shall be done. The piece of ye Blind, three aditions to four ells and half a quarter. The adition of Paul's preaching comes to eleven ells a quarter and half a quarter. The adition of ye piece of ye Sacrafice comes to thirteen ells and three quarters, in all twenty-nine ells and one quarter, at two pounds per ell, comes to fifty-eight pounds ten shillings for fourteen days of three mens labour, or joining them at two shillings a day per man, four pounds four shillings wch in all comes to sixty-two pounds fourteen shillings which with ye fore bill comes to £142 14s. wich I begg ye favor of Your Lordship to be so kind as to send it to mee I being in soe great want of it that I am forced to send mans away for wanting of money therefore I hope your Lordship will have pittty of me.

"I am with great respect to your Lordship,

"Your most Humble and most obedient Servant to command

"STEPHEN DEMAY."

Extracts from Accounts.

Paid Mr. Demay in full for ten pieces of Apostles hangings £700. Paid Mr. Demay for twenty-nine ells added to the Apostle hangings in full of all demands £58. Total £758 (equal to about £2,274 now).

In a catalogue dated 1705 it is said that these Tapestries were made at Brussels, but the writer does not give his authority for this statement. From the letters from Demay it would appear he made or at least joined the pieces together, but he mentions men who play for want of work which looks as if he himself had a manufactory of Tapestry, but as there is no mark on the Borders this cannot be proved.²⁷ It seems probable that they may have been manufactured in England. The name Demay is possibly a corruption of Dumée, a family associated with Tapestry works or designs for some centuries. Stephen Demay may have been among the weavers who emigrated in great numbers on the promulgation of the Edict of Nantes in the seventeenth century. The Apostle Hangings were woven at Mortlake at that time.

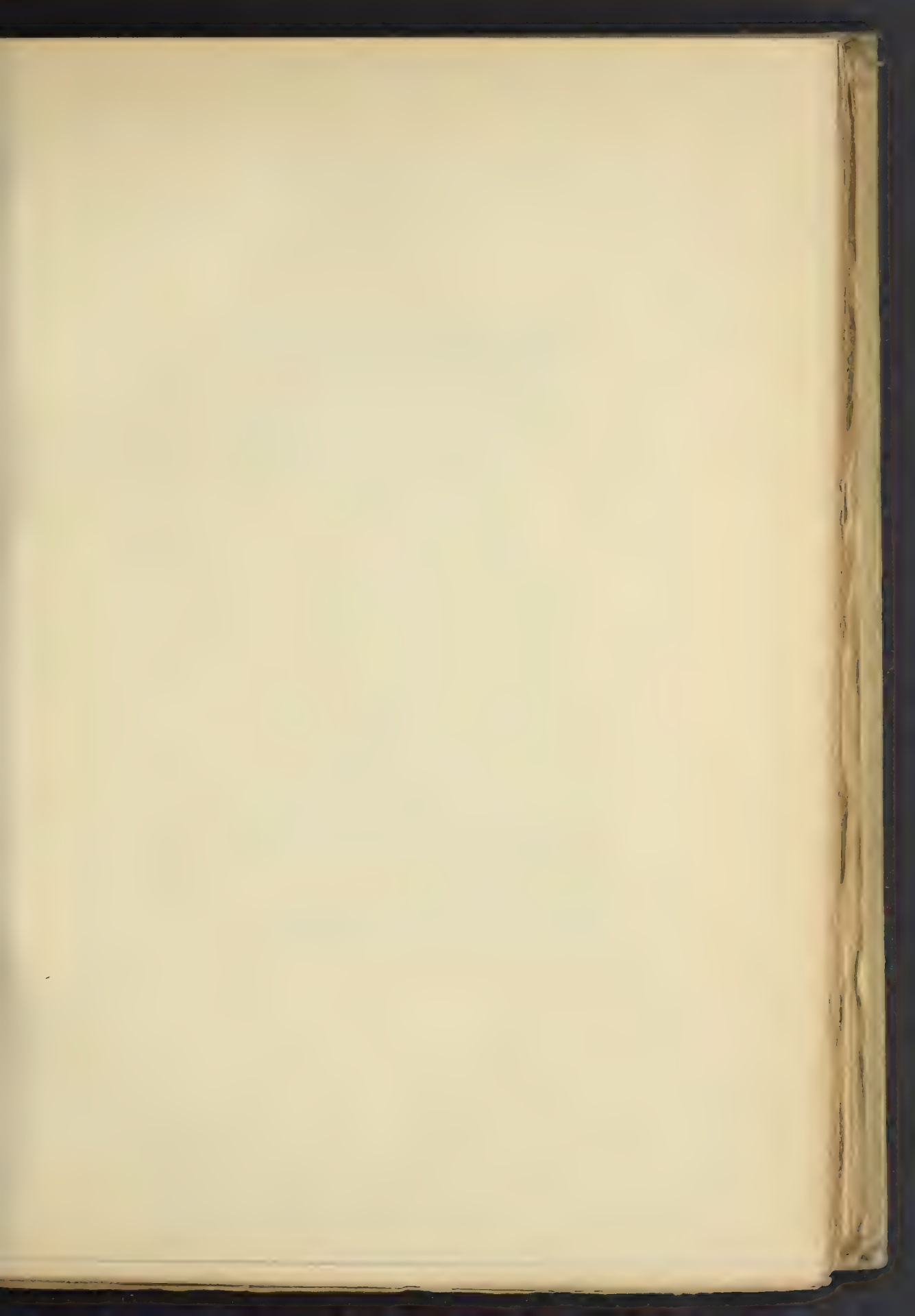
The following Rooms have these tapestries. State Bedroom "Annanius and Saphira;" State Dressing Room "St. Peter and the Keys," "The faithful Shepherd," "St. Peter and St. John at the beautiful gate of the Temple"; Red Room "St. Paul preaching in Athens"; Scarlet and Tapestry Room "Offering of Sacrifices to St. Paul," and the "Blind man before St. Paul and St. Peter."

Hangings and Papers for the other Rooms.

S.E. 18 ft. room. A new 11-6 high Damask, &c.

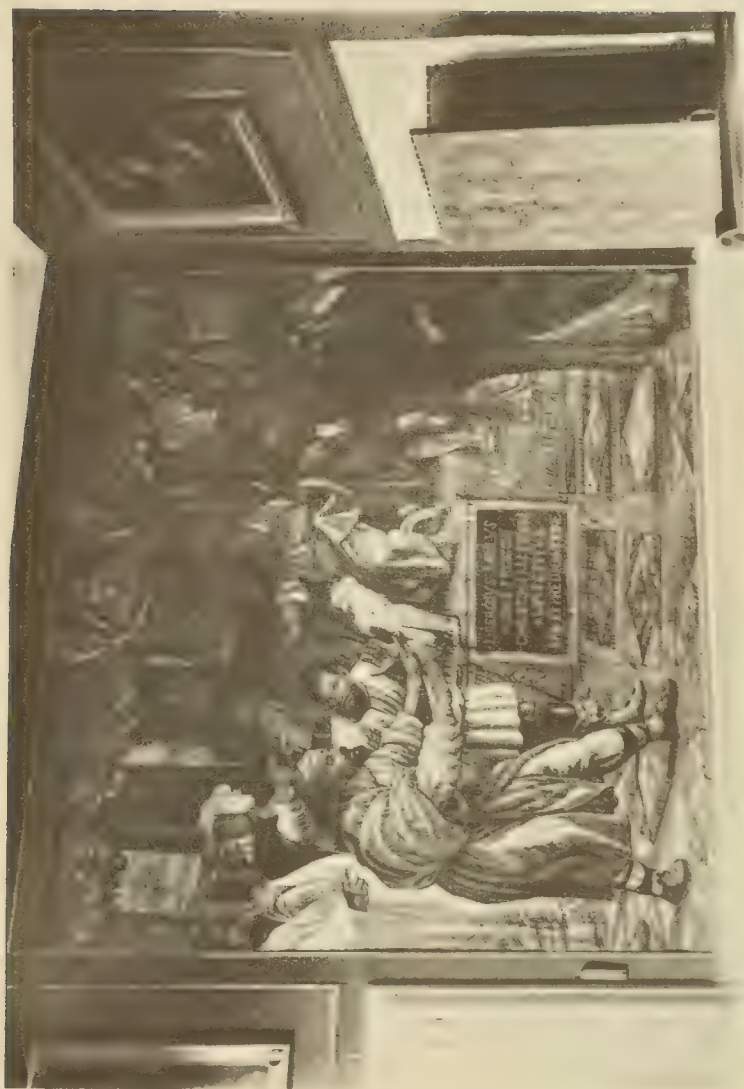
S.E. Pavilion. Hung or wainscotted new Damask.

²⁷ A connoisseur recently declared these tapestries to be of Brussels manufacture, also the name Demay is Dutch.





SCARLET AND TAPESTRY ROOM. TAPESTRY AFTER *Raphael's* CARTOONS.



SCARLET AND TAPESTRY ROOM.
TAPESTRY AFTER *Raphael's* CARTOONS.



RED ROOM.
SHOWING TAPESTRY AFTER *Raphael's* CARTOONS.



S.W. Room. A new Velvitt 11-6 high.

S.W. 18 ft. room. A new Damask ye addition to ye Green velvitt nine yards.

S.E. 18 ft. room. A new Damask.

S.W. 26 ft. room. A new Velvitt or Damask to suit the wraught.

S.W. Pavilion. Damask.

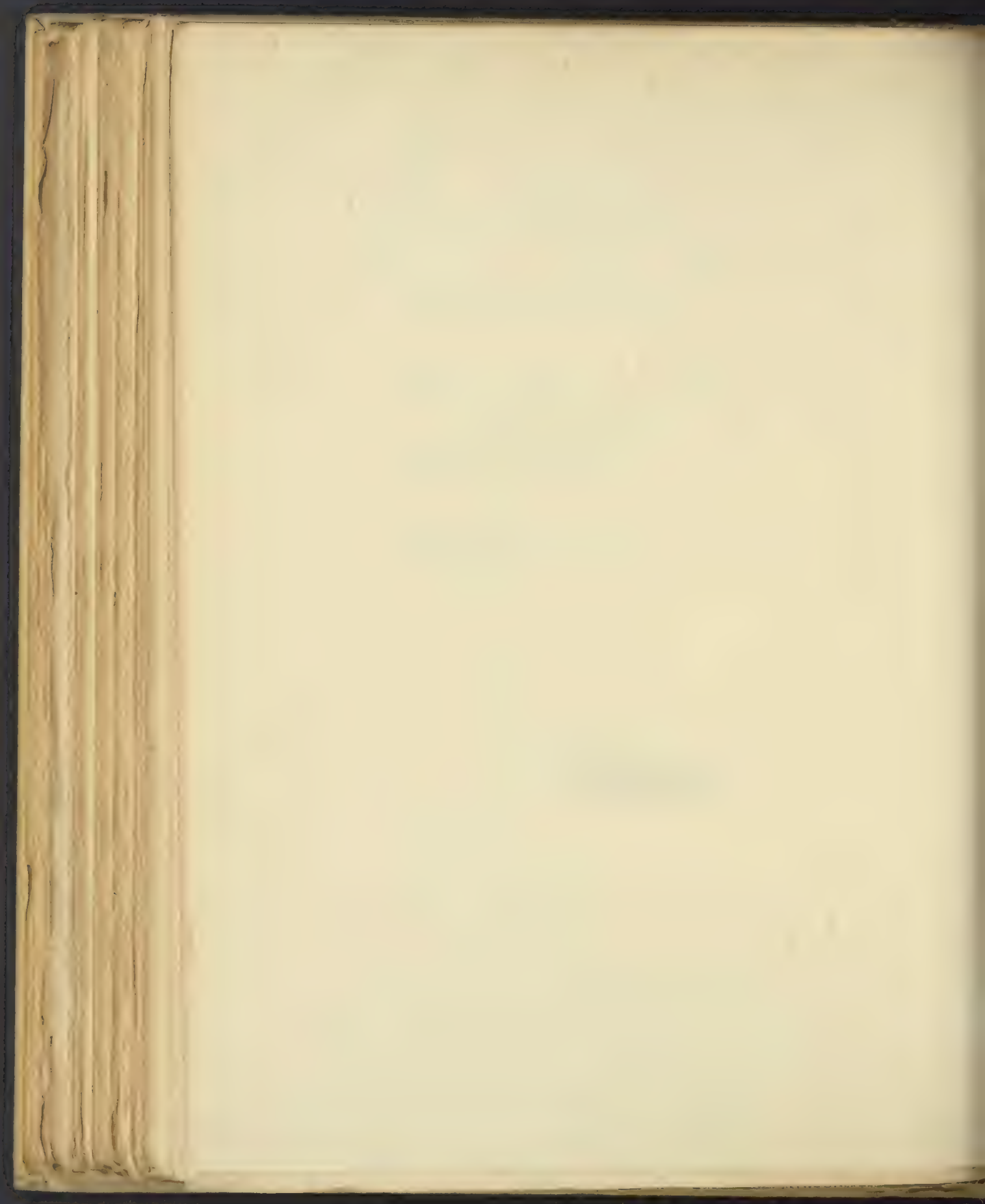
Garretts S.E. Twenty-two rooms New Blew and white to suit with dimity wraught too deep.

Garretts over stairs. One lot nine with Damask.

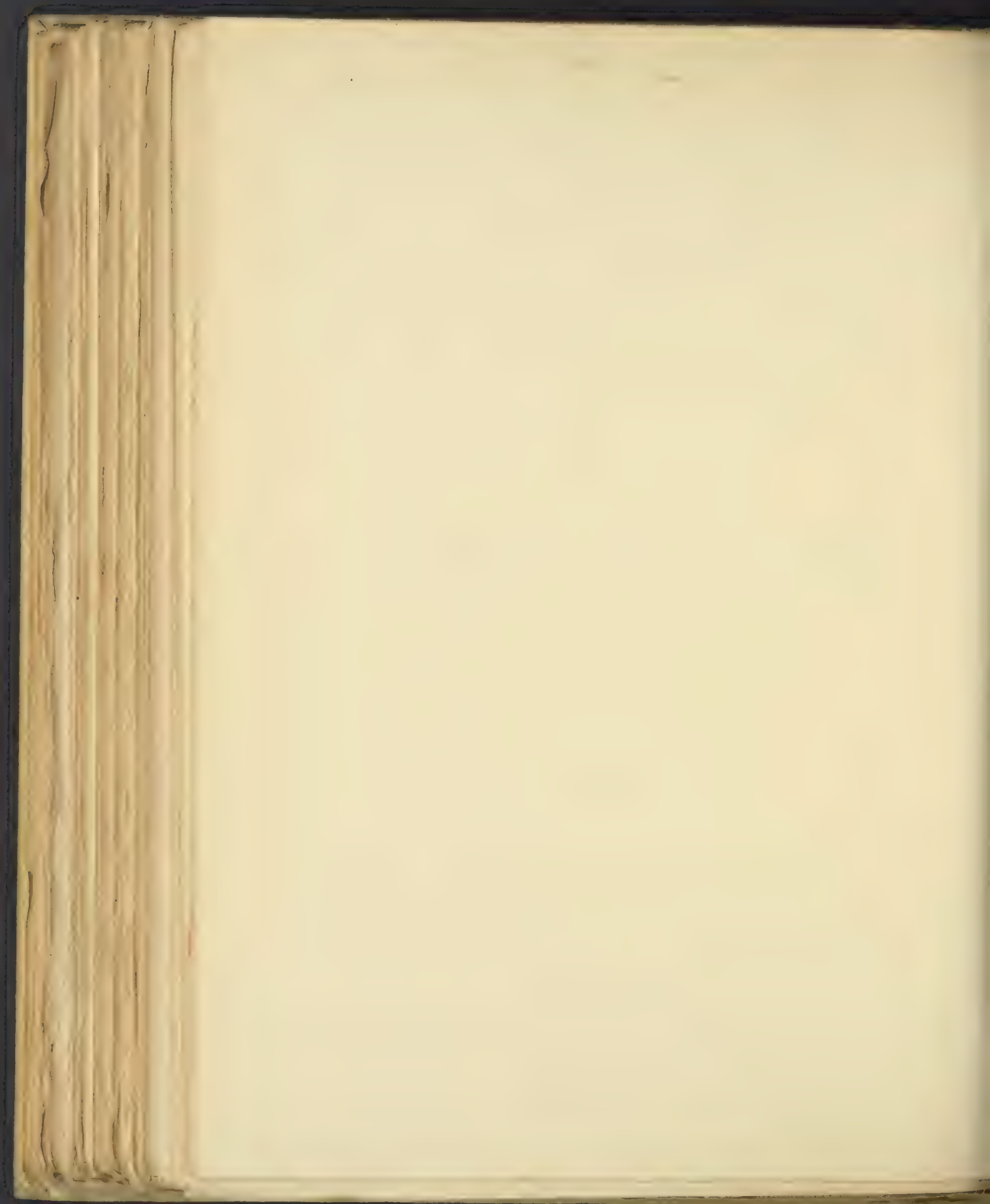
With the Tapestry the Interior of the House is practically finished, the Pictures and other objects of art are given later.

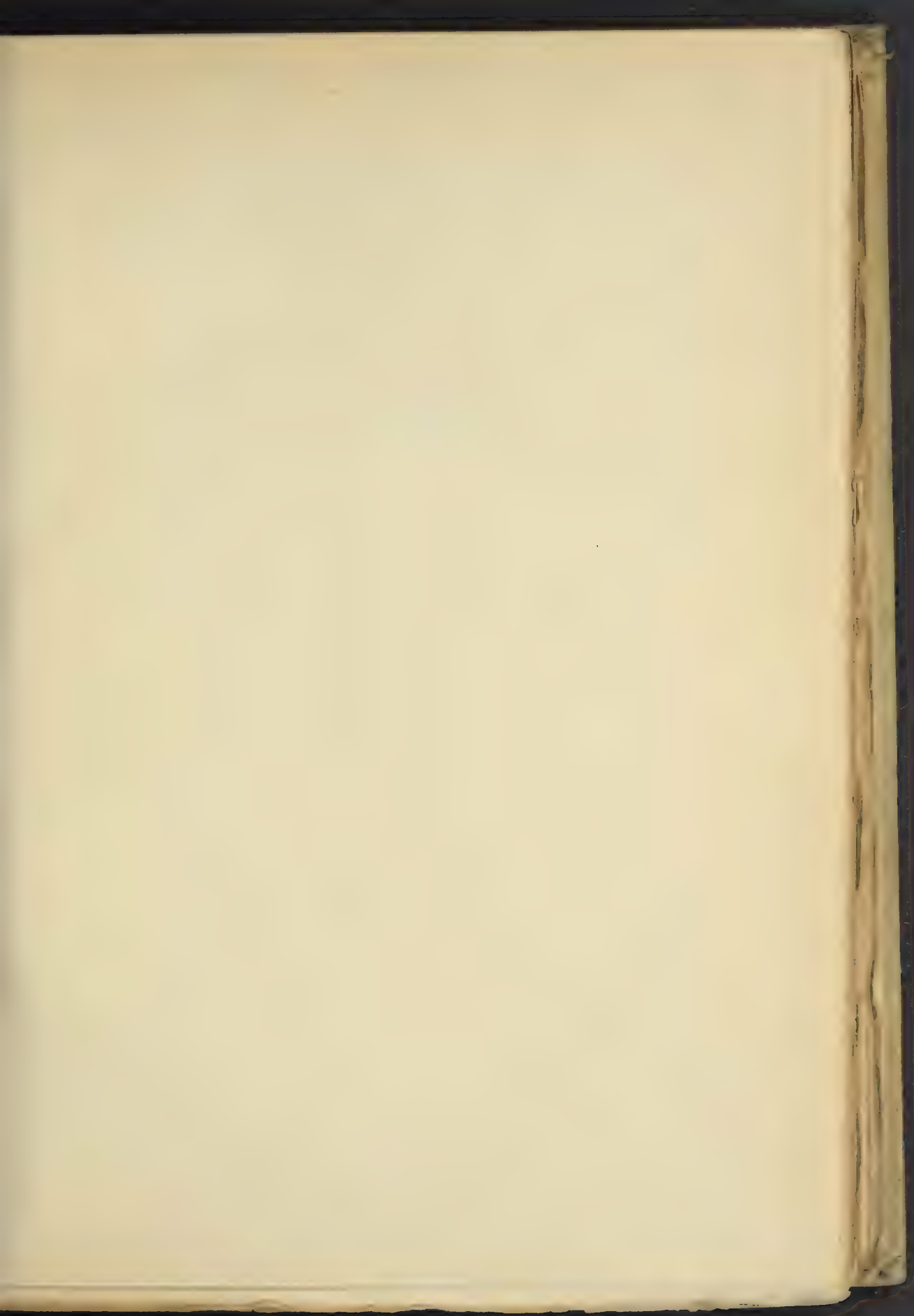
The Laundry and Kitchen seem to have been merged in the house. Although they are separate buildings adjoined to the house by a short Colonnade, there is no mention of them singly.

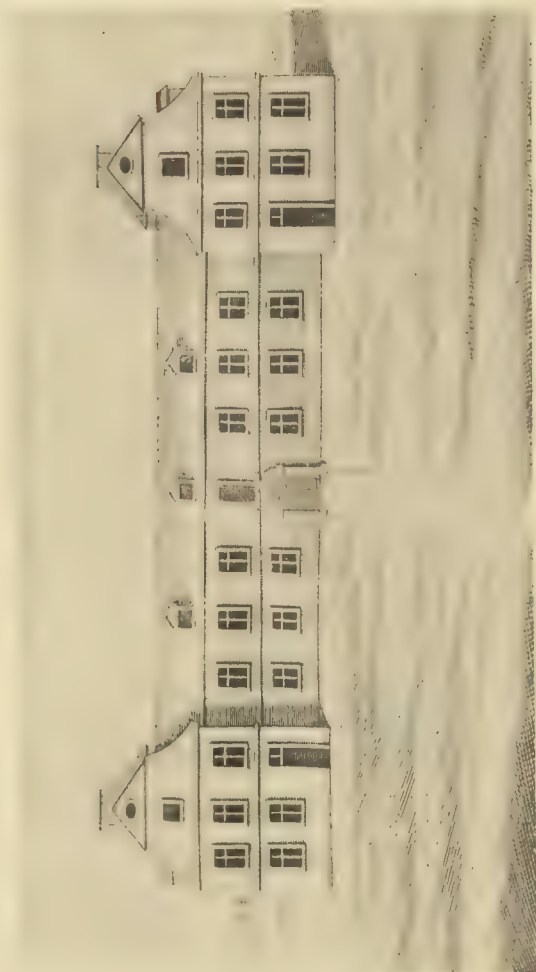




THE STABLES (EAST OR OLD STABLES).







EXTERIOR OF THE STABLES, BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL. FROM A PRINT IN
Wright's "History of Rutland."



THE STABLES (EAST OR OLD STABLES).

The Stables are much older than the house and were built by Buckingham, but by the bills connected with the present house it appears Lord Nottingham repaired and slightly altered them.

From Accounts.

1705. "W. Thomson and Nat Halliday ye Masons for repairs at ye Stables, viz. : Chopping holes where ye joists and beams lay. East Stable, raising ye middle wall between ye stables, for making a doorway, for pulling down one foot of ye said wall, for pulling down ye said cornish, for raising sixteen stable windows, raising two West doors at ye Stable, Setting ye Architrave, freeze and cornish on ye east side, cutting ye cornish for ye girders, cleansing old bricks, putting in windows, for chopping stone of 5 foot and 180 foot of groyned arches at 9d. per rood. (Part of the Stable has a beautiful groined roof and pillars). 16 spring stones for groyns at 4d. Pillasters apiece wall at ye middle window, one window on ye side of stable, 34ft ashler for ye old doorways at ye East Stable, taking down two doors and placing windows in their stead, beam filling in ye west corner of ye stable, stopping holes in stable and putting in the sash

windows, half a day at ye stables 7d. the wall from ye coyn to ye old Stable.—Total £60. 3s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.”

“Mr. Norman ye Carpenter—for new framing 16 stables windows which were burnt, mending the Great Stable Door.²⁷ For the roof of the Stable, viz., 4,730 ft. 7ins. Sawing two loads of timber for ye broken girders, altering four stable windows in ye roof, 16 lights in ye Stable were ye Balcony was.”

“The groyned roof at ye North end of ye Stables, one arch length 46 ft. 6ins. the ends of the 4 cross groyns between the columns. Mr. Bull ye plumber for ye stable, gutters 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. rain water pipe at North end of Stables repairing and making a new head to ye stable pump. Land close stone used in the groyned arches of ye East end stable 495ft. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins.”

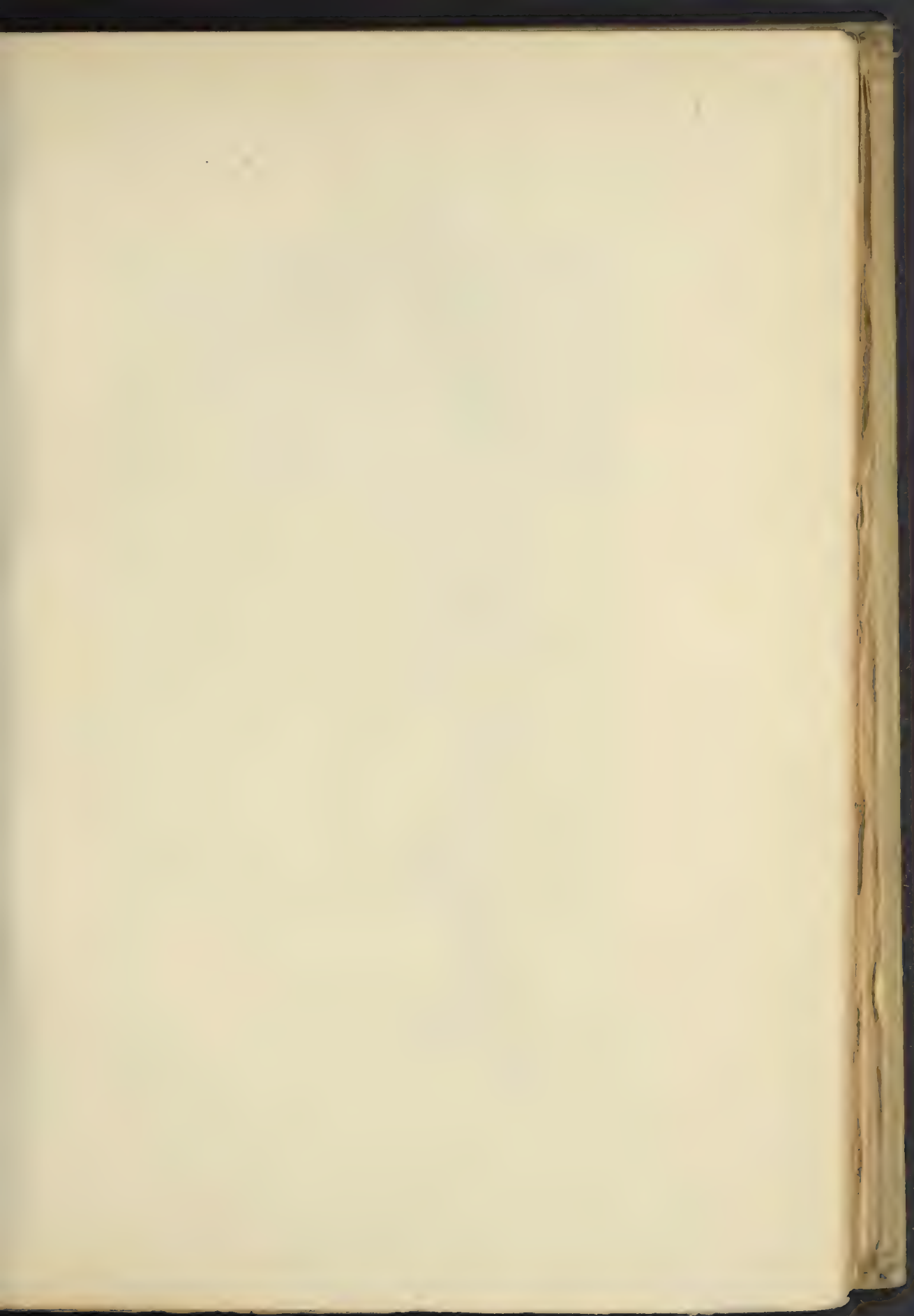
“William Berridge ye carpenter, by wainscott, viz. twenty standing in ye East long stable, etc. etc. Old glass remaining of the large sort 258 ft. This will glaze nine of the six light windows when it is repaired.”

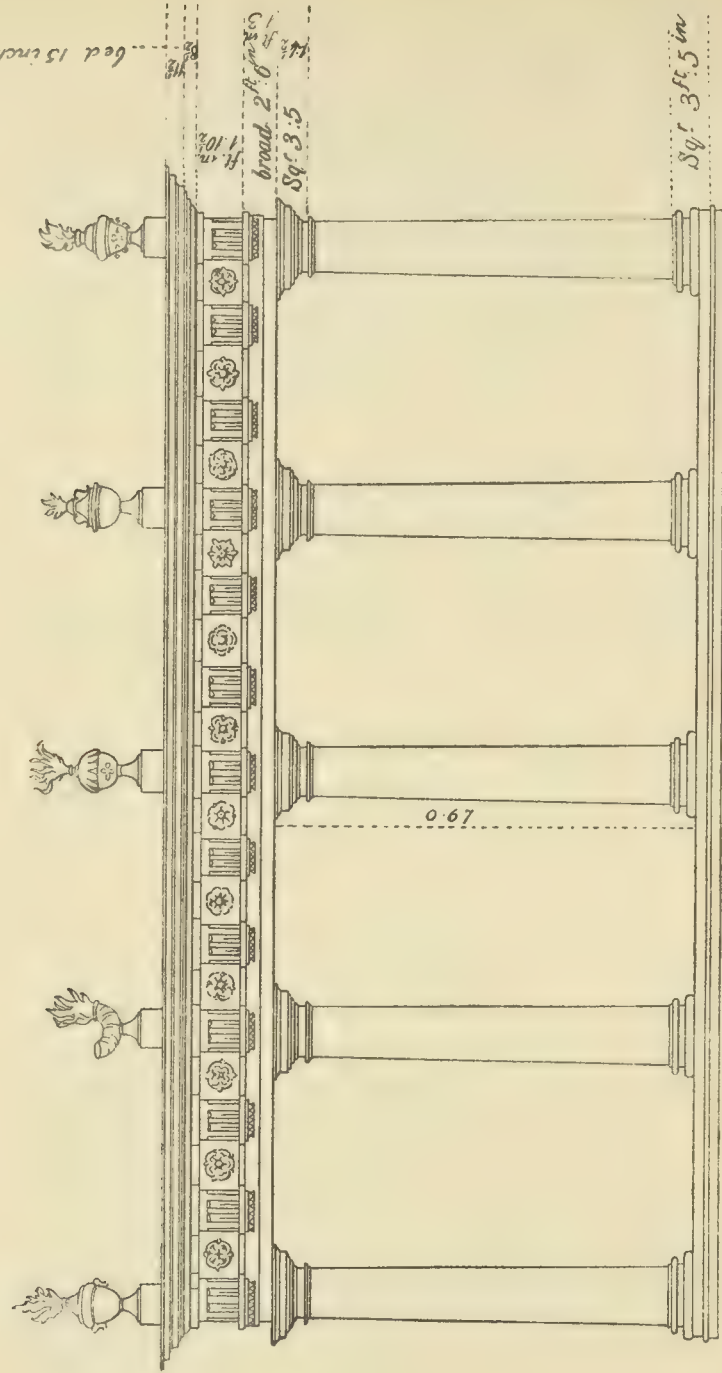
The Roof.

“The old slabs may doe if good two third of the work which is about thirteen 7 and a half rod, there will be wanting neare 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ rod or 7 rod for ye ends. The side of the roof West side only, Length 3 ft. depth 19 ft. total 2,109 ft. which is six rod 105 feet of old slabs, etc.”

²⁷ Sir John Evelyn, in his Diary, gives the following information:—

“March 11th.—An exceeding dry season. Greate loss by fire, burning the outhouses of the famous stable of the Earl of Nottingham at Burleigh (Rutlandshire) ful of rich goods and furniture, by the carelessness of a servant.” 1705.

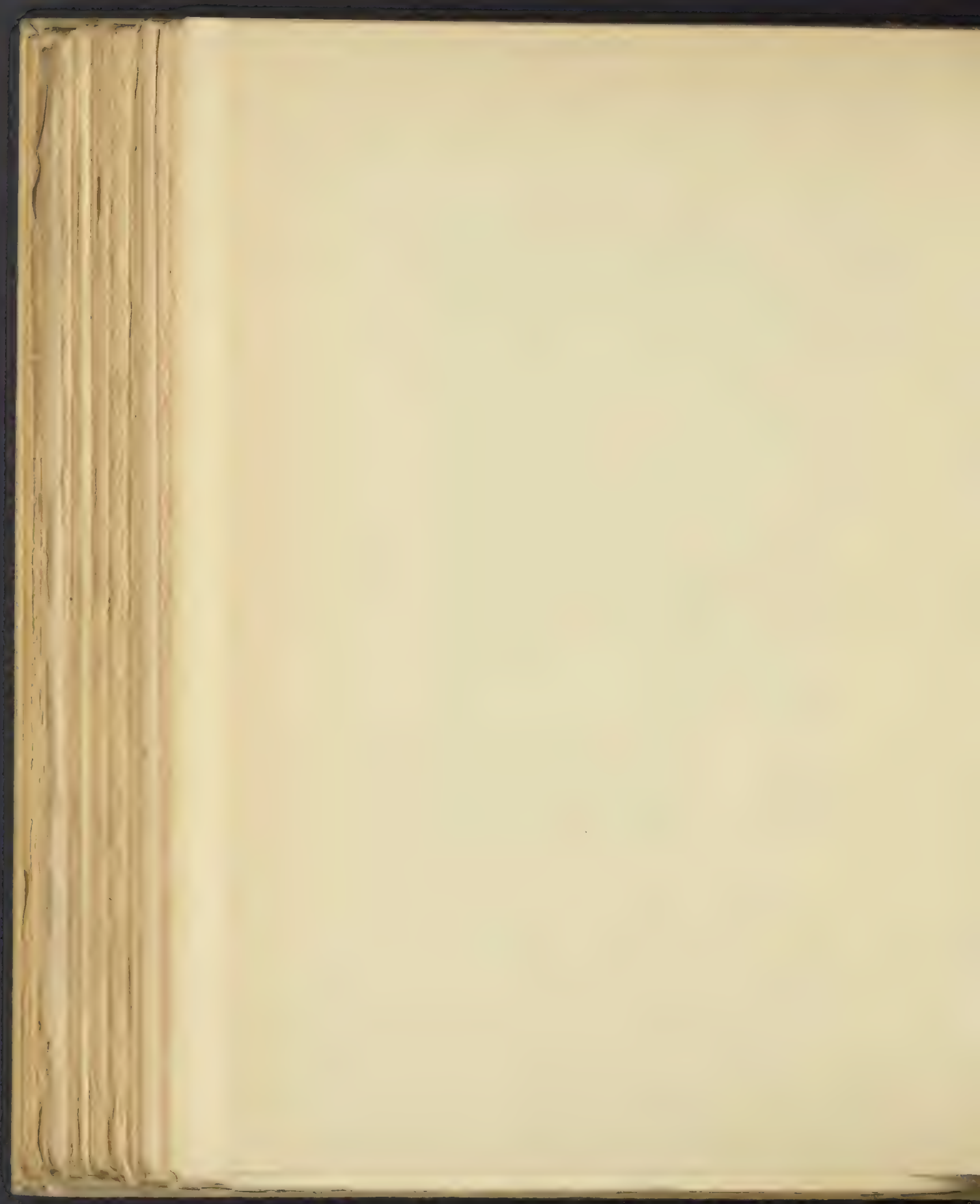




These Columns to be 2^{ft} 4ⁱⁿ diameter



INTERIOR OF PART OF THE STABLES.
COMMONLY CALLED THE OLD STABLE FROM ITS BEING THE OLDEST PART.



Goods in ye Gallery at ye Stable.

- 2 Brass potts with covers—3 iron racks—2 fish plates.
- 4 Stew pans and one cover, 1 grate fireshovel, 1 cullender.
- 2 chopping knives 4 trivetts 1 lark spit.
- 1 Jack, 3 pair of pot hooks, 1 bottom for a grate.
- 3 Sconces, 1 old warming pan, 2 kettles.
- 2 Sawcepann covers, 1 large dripping pan, 2 large fishpans.

There are many other entries in the account book for repairs and building of Stables, but it is very difficult to distinguish between them, as they are mentioned as The Old or East Stable, The West Stable, the New Stable, the Hunting Stable. It is most probable that the New and West Stable refers to the present carpenter's workshop, but there are no accounts of this building to show it was used for any other purpose. These Stables are very lofty and have for the most part groined roofs, and it is probable that they are even larger and better than they were in the days of Buckingham when they were considered quite a marvel. The present Round House or Summer Stable was built by the ninth Lord Winchelsea and used for a riding school.

The Colonnades.

The Colonnades are usually mentioned in the bills and accounts as the Cloysters or Piazza walk. There do not appear to have been any agreements drawn up concerning their erection.

The Lathes for the Cloysters.

"In one cloyster will be $6\frac{1}{2}$ squares and better be 3 beams and $\frac{1}{2}$ each wch principal rafters be framed on them and purlins and sceilin joyce and rafters will be $31\frac{1}{2}$ foot solid to

each square in ye Cloyster will be 195 ft. 3 ins. And there wants half ye timber of ye other Cloyster which is 97 ft. 7 ins. at fifty foot to ye load is eight loads and all added 405 ft. 10 ins."

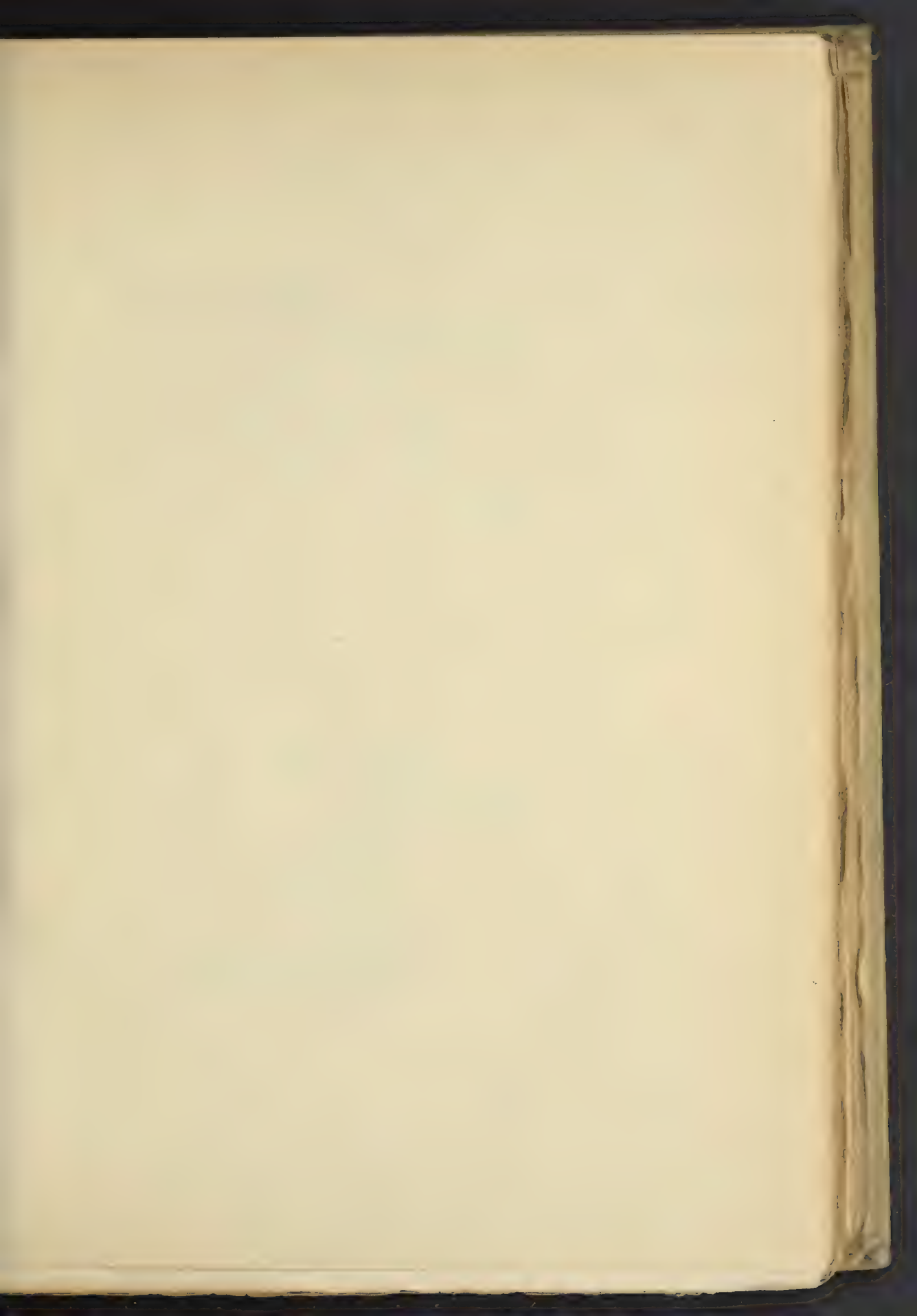
"Sept. 29th, 1705. Lead remaining towards the work to be done at ye Cloysters: Eleaven sheets supposed to be 44 cwts. piggs sixty-two, 164 cwts., 1-14—total 208 cwts., 1-14 and by bill computation there will want 20 tun, viz., 400 so wanting 192 viz., 10 Fodder."

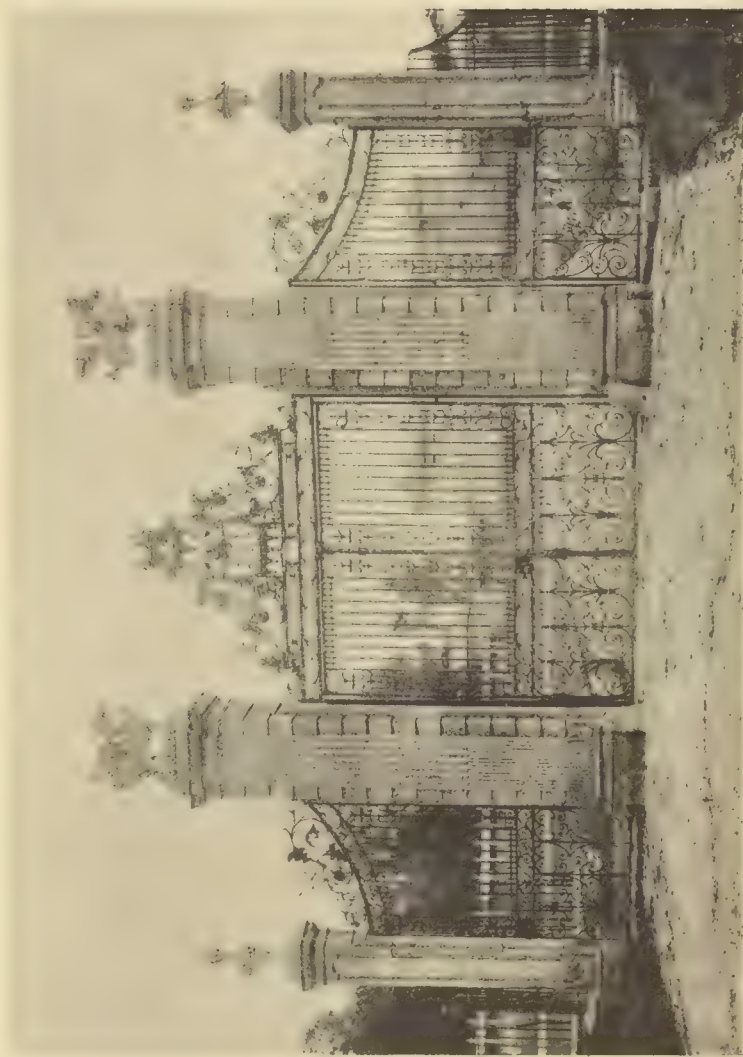
From the Account Books.

"Mr. Bull ye Plumber, by casting and laying sheet lead in ye East and West Cloyster 8 fodder, 24 cwts., 3 qts., 18 lbs. per Cloyster 62 fod., 1 cwts. 15 qts. East long Cloyster 176 fodder 3 qts., £25. 15s. Northy ye mason, a three quarter column, &c., for the West long Cloyster, £5. 3s. 8½d., cutting ye East high Cloyster for a flash of lead 10d. For thirty-eight pillasters £27. 1s. 1d."

"Thomson Halliday and Hawley ye Masons, for cutting holes for ye Beams of ye Cloysters 5s. By stone delivered to Mr. Snow, viz., 2 load of pavement, 12 feet of stone for urns 10 foot of Pavement 16s. 8d. For ye West lesser columns in the East Piatza, ditto in West Piatza £3. 9s 10d., viz., for plint, bases Capitals, shafts, &c."

"Toplas ye mason, for turning ye arches under ye columns 1s. 9d. for setting 4 column plints. Mabison ye mason, for working columns £25. 2s. 7d. Parker for the Foundation of the Piatza wall, viz., from ye end of ye New stable to ye Gateway 170 ft. 10 ins. From ye gateway Southwards 449 ft. 6 ins. The West ashler Piatza wall, viz., from ye coyn to ye gateway by ye stable, &c."





IRON GATES AT THE PRESENT DAY.

"1705. Frances Green ye slater, by ceiling ye two Cloysters between ye House and ye Offices. Length and breadth 620 ft. 10 ins. £1. 8s. 9d."

The Levelling of the Court.

"Mr. Lumley and partners for Levelling the Court yard between ye Piatza Walls £57. 19s. 6d. East side Sellers and Carrier, West side Chesterton and Halliday, Middle walk Walkers and Hawley."

The measurement of the Court from one Colonnade to another is 500 ft. The distance from the iron gates to the house is 800 ft.

The house, court and buildings occupy seven acres.

The height of the house is 90 ft.

The court is said to greatly resemble that of St. Peter's at Rome ; no doubt Lord Nottingham had that idea in his head, for as a young man he travelled a great deal in Italy.

The Lodges.

FROM THE ACCOUNT BOOKS.

"Duckmanton and Harold for work at ye Porters' Lodges and Coyns at the Court front walls £8.

"Northy ye Mason, by 9 days work, &c., by the Lodge Iron gates, cleaning the old coaping of the walls between the Courts 19s. 2d. Halliday for stone pitching with pibbles at the Lodges at 2d. and making small drains at the lodges 9s. 5d."

The Iron Gates.

These gates are well worthy of notice being particularly beautiful and graceful in design. Unfortunately there is little information respecting them.

EXTRACTS FROM ACCOUNTS.

"1700. Mr. Joshua Lord by the Iron Gates at the Porter's Lodge."

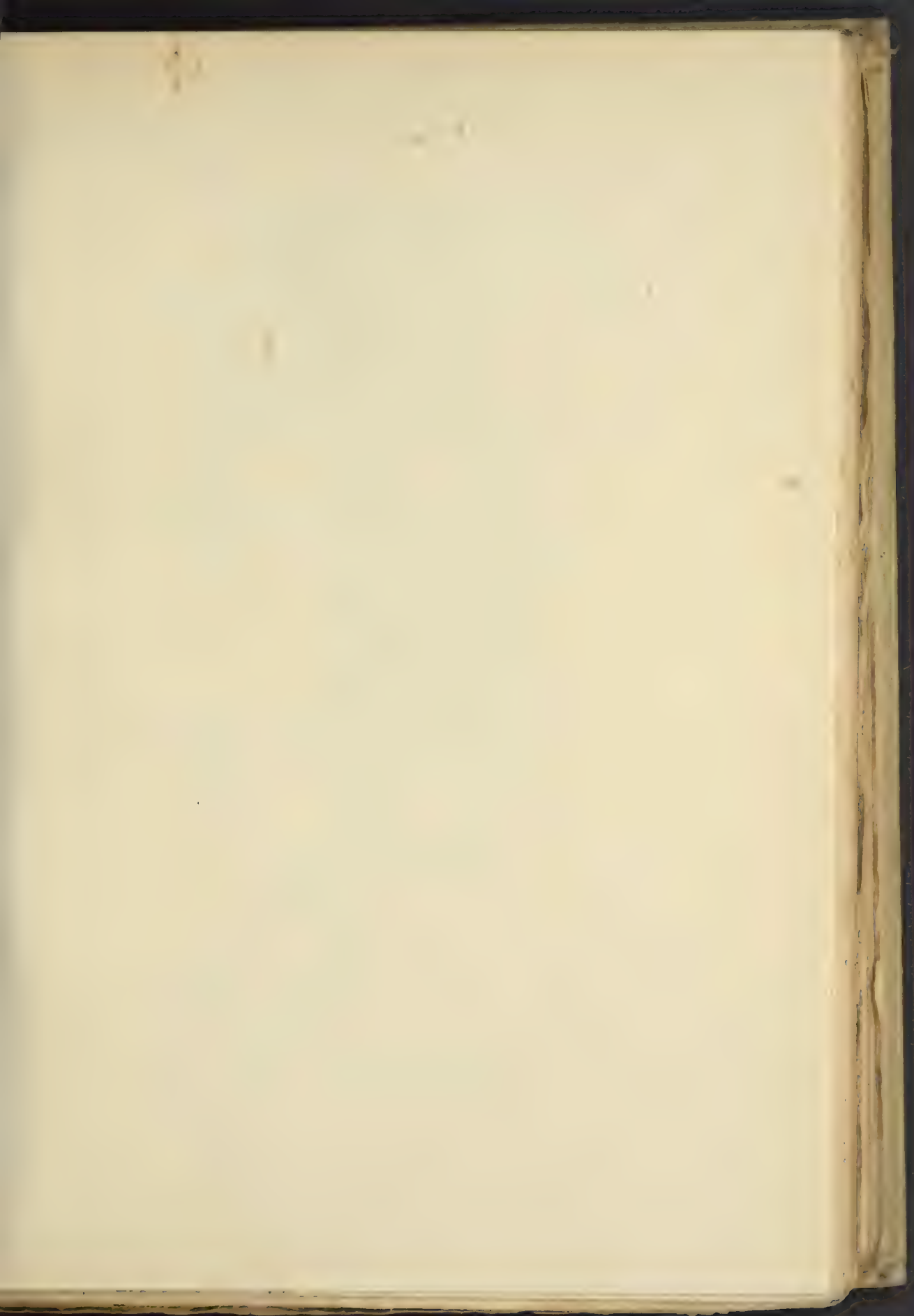
"They were supposed to weigh 36 cwts. but when brought they weighed 40 cwts. 4 qts. 7 lbs. So then 36 cwts. at 5½d. per lb. 4 cwts. 3 qts. 7 lbs. of iron at 2d. per lb., in all £96. 17s. 6d."

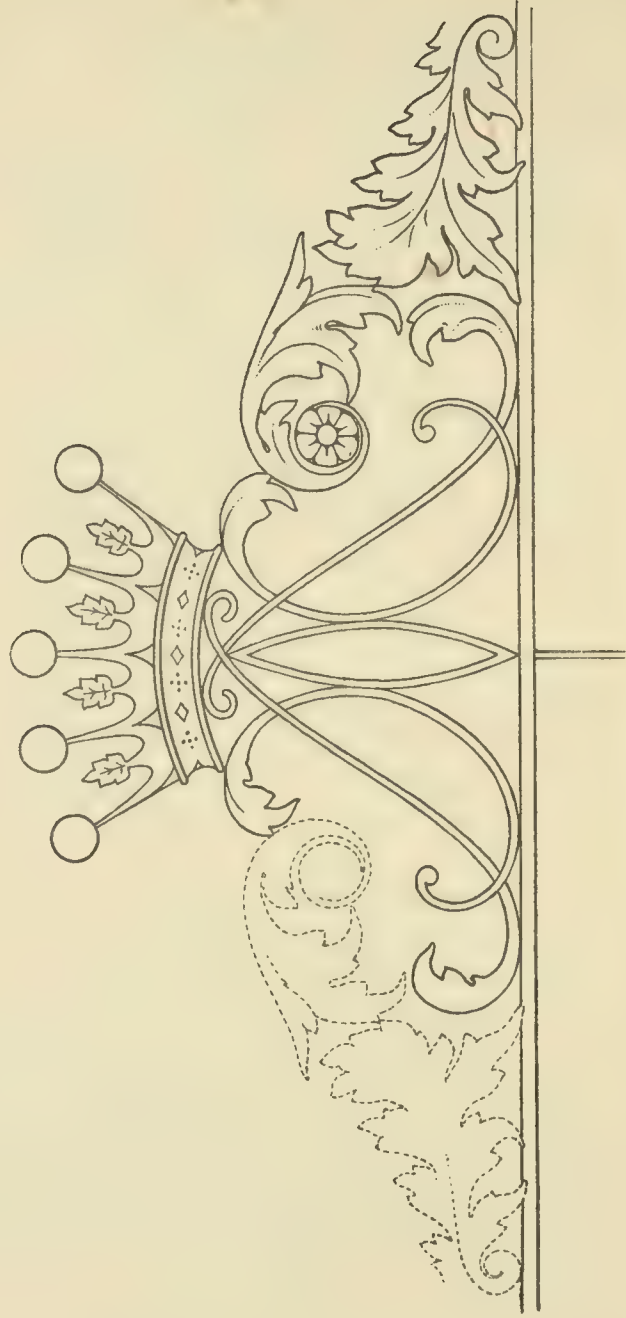
It is just possible that the gates and iron work at Burley were designed by Jean Tijon, a Frenchman, who came to England soon after the reformation. He designed the gates at Hampton Court, the iron work at St. Paul's Cathedral, Chatsworth and Burghley by Stamford, and the gates at All Souls', Oxford. Lord may have worked under Tijon or have been his pupil.

It would seem from the plan here given that the first idea was to make the gates of wood, this however was abandoned. In 1796 the lodges were unfortunately pulled down, by the advice of Repton the destroyer of many fine places. In a book now at Burley he gives his reasons for doing so.

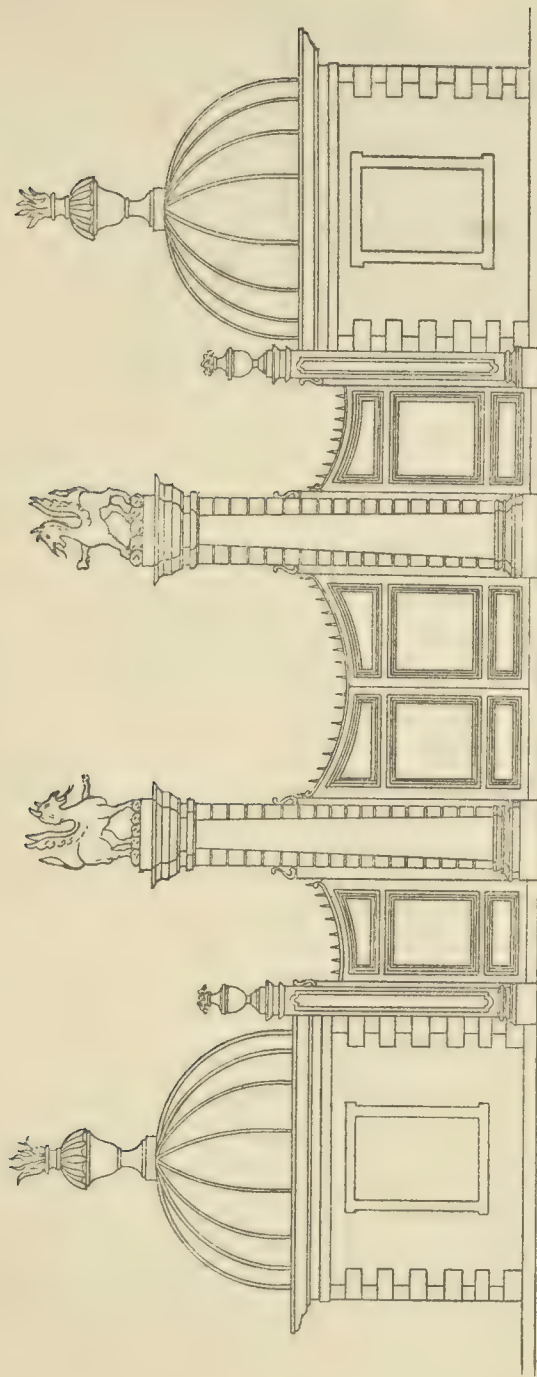
Extracts from Repton's Book.

"After removing the wall which formed the front of the court a doubt arose as to whether the entrance ought to be in the centre, or at the two sides; and of course whether the gate and Porter's Lodges should remain or not." Then follows a long rigmarole upon the subject, but his arguments evidently carried weight, for the walls and lodges were swept away, and thus the complete character of the Court was destroyed. The gates were fortunately allowed to remain, but they stand surrounded by some very inferior



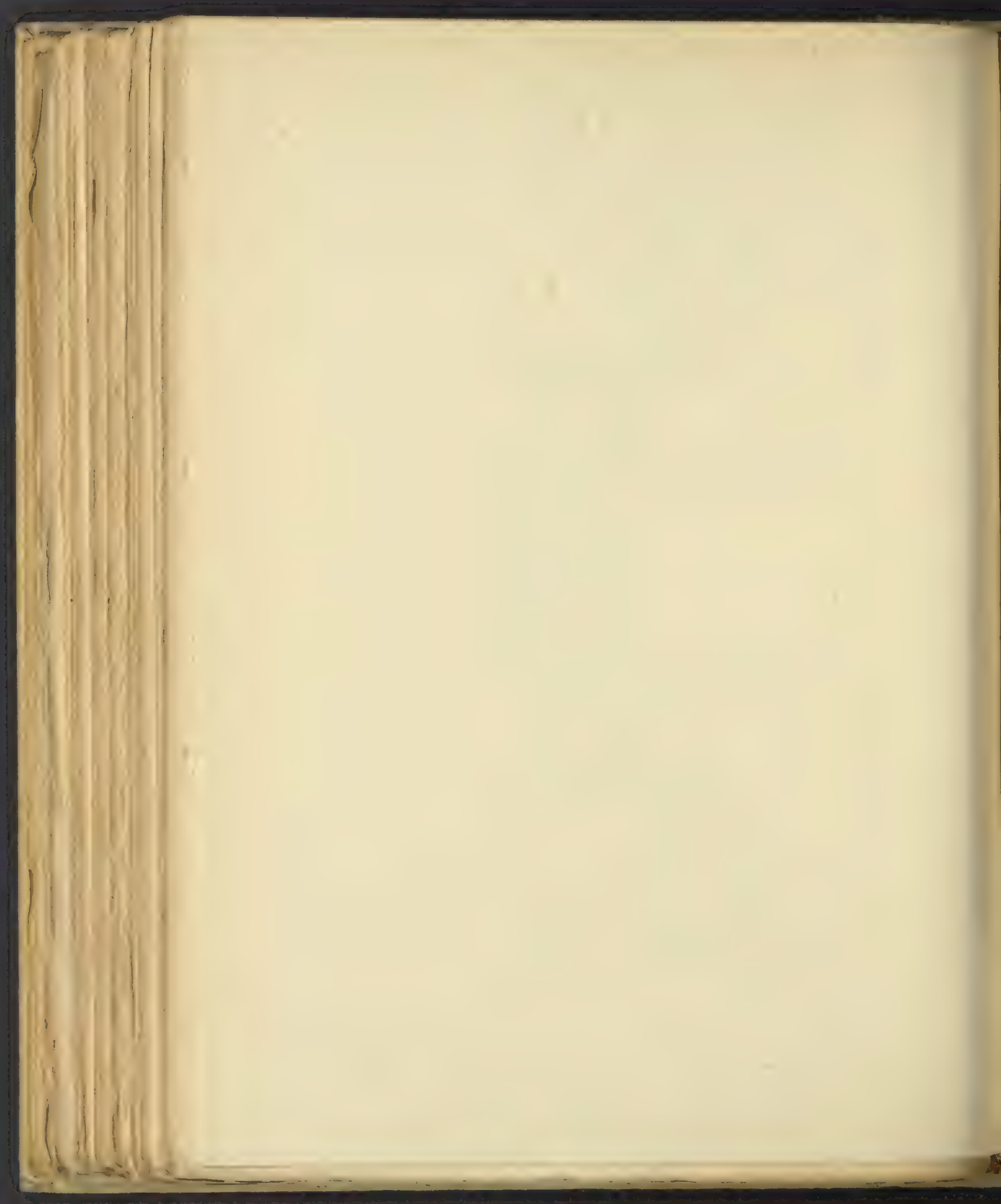


PLAN OF THE TOP OF THE IRON GATES FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



The scale is to ye foot Fluted only inside plain outside.

FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



iron railings and lose half their beauty having nothing to throw them into relief.

Few things are so iniquitous as the destruction of the character of a place, with the absurd excuse that it is not nature. It is to be hoped that some day the walls and lodges may be rebuilt in the original way.

Letters Concerning the Gates.

No. I.

"BURLEY, *May* 10, 1764,

"SIR,—

"I had yours of ye 6th, and have measured the Gateway at ye East Cloyster in the Park wch is as follows High 11ft. 11ins. Wide 11ft. 11ins. Mr. Norman has been here and looked over the stuff in the fallen that is for the Gates at ye Porter's Lodges and says there is only these pieces that would serve towards the making them, 4 hanging stiles, 2 straite stiles yt. meet when ye gates shut, viz., 3 cross railles. So there is wanting as follows: 10ft. 6ins. 8ins. and 4 ins. thick. 3 cross railles each 6ft. long and 19ins. broad, 4 ins. thick, 2 compass pieces intended for heads are $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long each, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ sq., but they are so warped they will not do; there must be also best stuff provided for the pannels and it would be necessary yt. Mr. May should consider if there will be any other stuff wanting yt. Mr. Norman has not mentioned. The Great Gateway is 11ft. 10ins. and 11ft. 4ins. wide. Bridle Gates each 11ft. 10ins. high and five ft. seven ins. wide. Mr. Warburton and Mr. Love has seen ye receipts wch you sent and are very well satisfied. I have given Will a caution concerning the wood people. The young Ladies are very

well. Nurse Smith desires you will please to let some of the Family know that Lady Mary wants a paire of shoes they must be two sizes larger than the last. Mrs. Halls gives her services to you and your sons are both well.

"I am your humble servant.

"EDWARD KIRBY."

"To Mr. Armstrong at the Earl of Nottingham's House in the Privy Garden."

"Richard Philpott ye smith for new Iron work for four pair of gates £6. 18s. 6d. For making East Iron Gates and the cipher and coronet 4 guineas 1702." (These gates have no cipher or coronet now). "Mr. Blunt ye Painter for painting ye gates by ye Stable to ye park 270ft. of paint, ye East Iron gates 190ft. East Iron gates of ye Court 14ft. 3ins. at 6d. or £2. 17s. 11d. Lodge gates made by Lord 293ft. 3ins."

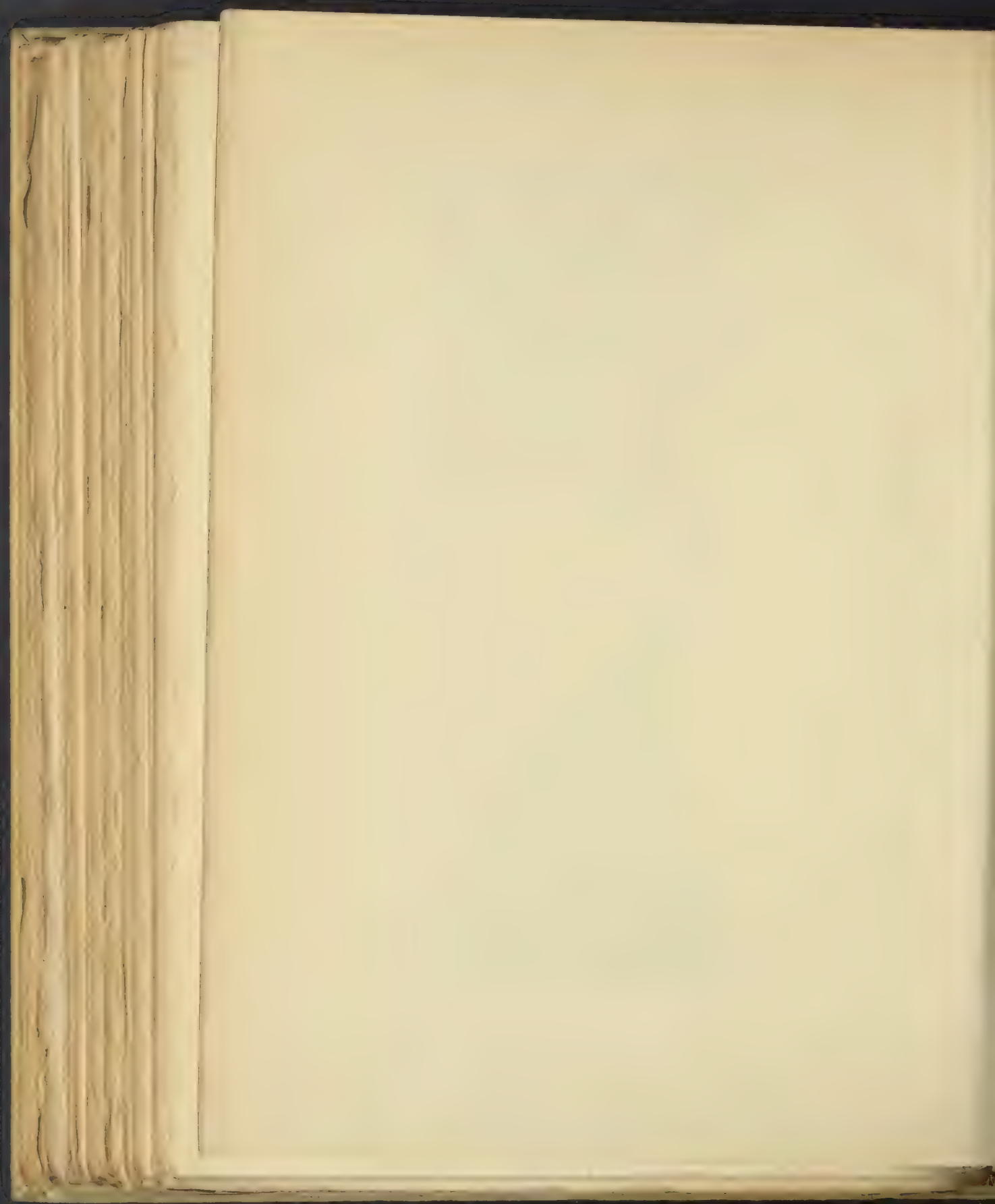
The Iron Rails.

AGREEMENT, *November 22nd, 1700.*

"It is this day agreed with Mr. Philpott of Oakham, that he shall make the iron barrs and rails for the North steps at Burley strong and sufficient and according to ye patern wch he brought this day and also to make a thin rail to cover ye rail which is to fasten ye said barrs upon wch upper rail there is to be three knobs for each side of the steps, the said Mr. Philpott to revitt and fix ye said barrs at Burley in their proper place. The barrs and raile are to be weighed when wraught and ye Earle of Nottingham is to pay him for ye iron after ye rate of seventeen shillings and sixpence per hundred weight. And for ye workmanship of ye said Barrs



BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL FROM THE NORTH.



and railes and fixing up ye same in all respects the said Earl is to pay for every upright Barr thereof ye sum of three shillings wch price by the Barr is intended to comprehend the railes and all other work belonging thereunto.

(Signed)

"NOTTINGHAM."

"RICHARD PHILPOTT."

"Witness, "T. ARMSTRONG."

"To these Ballisters Mr. Philpott will agree for each rail of these at ye same price as he agreed for ye other, viz., 3s. per ballister and ye rails not to be paid for yr. Honour to be at ye charge of all ye Iron, Lead and holes to be drilled for ye Banister. The Banisters and raile of the model, to be done at ye same rate as ye North side were, and putt up by Mr. Philpott, ye holes being drilled for him and lead furnished to him by ye Earl of Nottingham."

"Mr. Philpott ye Smith, Dec. 1701. Iron for ye Rails and Ballisters on ye North steps 6 cwts. 2 qts. 24 lbs. at 17s. £5. 15s. 10d. For making 40 ballisters at 3s. £6, two are remaining for ye West Steps. Total £11. 15s. 10d."

There are altogether three sets of iron railings or banisters one on the steps on the North side, one on those of the South side, and a third on the West steps.

All the iron work at Burley is considered very good. That on the North and West steps is of the same pattern. The banisters on the South side are however much more ornate. There are no steps now on the East side of the house. The iron lamps on the North side are also most ornamental.

The North Stairs or Steps.

"Sept. 9th, 1708.

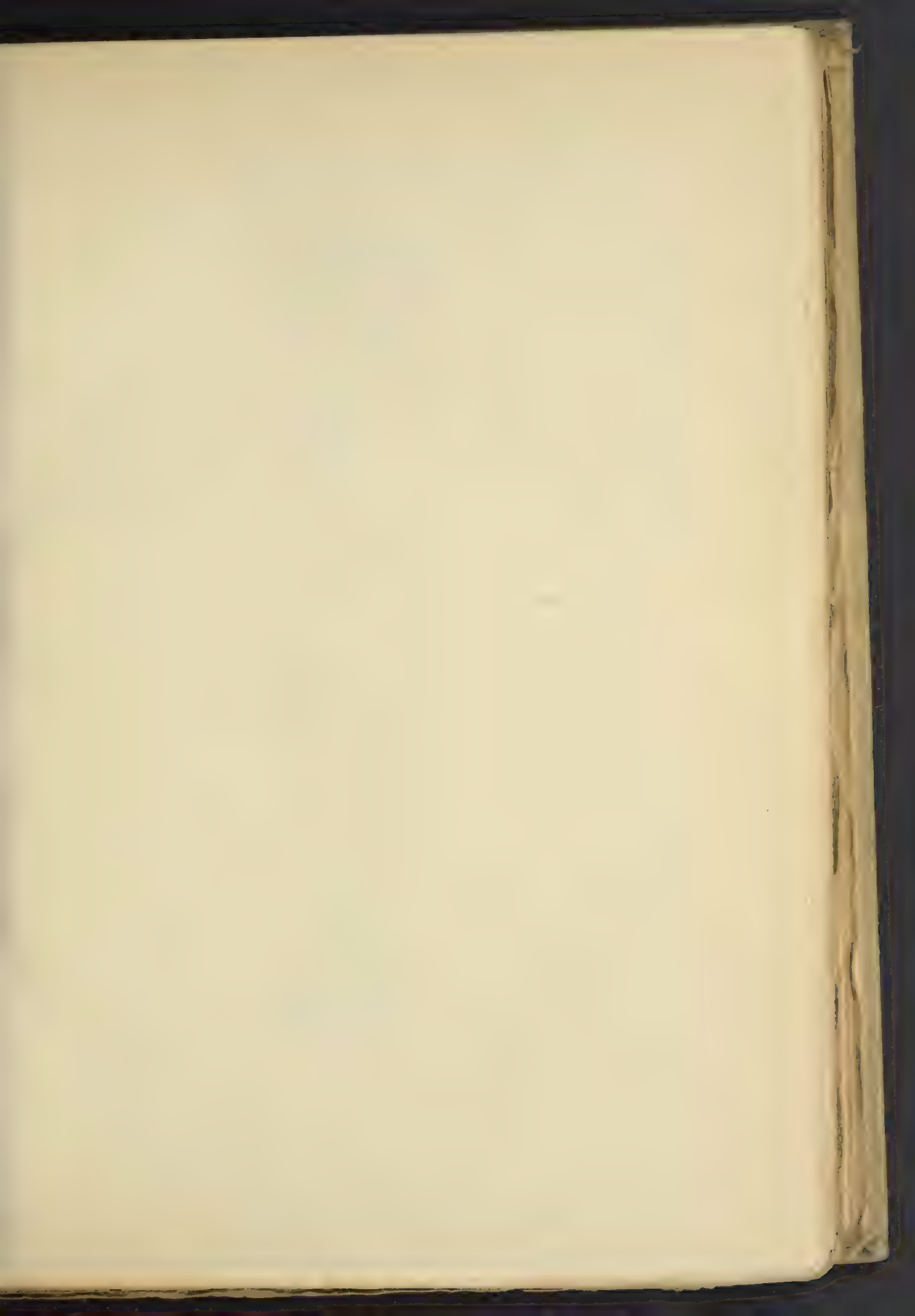
"MY LORD,—

"I being abroad could not write sooner to your Honr. I have endeavored for other designs but none can be other than your Honr. sent me and of all your four wayes, my opinion is ye fourth or last calculation will be best being seven ft. six ins. wide as your Honr. has cast it to be near fourteen ins. tread wth ye oversayle wch will be broad enough, for a low wice and broad is never good, all ye other three, viz., one of 8 ft. goeing the tread too narrow of ye 3 first ye second way is best at 7 ft. 9 ins. going but all those three ye wises are full high except two steps could be jammed under ye perpin of ye landing wch cannot be for ye door to ye Hall. But that of 7 ft. 9 ins. will be large when done, for every step bord must be 7 ft. 10 ins. long to set ye Banisters on ye end: and ye return of ye overaile included, and ye square of ye Banisters on ye end, &c., &c. This will be large and noble staires. The Ston Stairs at ye Lord Lemsters (Lempster) are but 6 ft. 4 ins., projecting out of ye wall and ye iron raile takes 2 ins. of it. These are called noble staires by reason which Sir Christopher Renn and Mr. Hawkesmoore designed them. Or if yr. Honr. will have them 8 ft. cleare wide each wice may be lowered 1-10th of an inch and not be slippy, I have known it be done in timber staires and not perceived nor complained of, but ye best will be 7 ft. 6 in. cleare.

"I am your Honours Dutiful Servant,

"JOHN LUMLEY."

This letter is rather complicated.





OLD PLAN OF THE COURT SHOWING WALLS AND LODGES WHICH WERE PULLED DOWN.
FROM A PRINT BY *Blondel* AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

The Circular Wall Round the Court.**FROM ACCOUNTS.**

"William Dunster ye Mason by building the Court Yard walls from ye Lodge to Rasons Stable £19. 4s. 11½d. Jackson by building part of ye Court yard Wall, viz. The whole length of ye front wall from Stable to ye Porters Lodge, the Wall from ye Coyne to ye old Stable towards ye peers in ye O. Q. wall by building foundations, viz. The front wall and lodge, the wall to wards the park with ye returne and circular ashler wall by ye old Stable end ; etc. £57. 3s. 10d. John Parker for the circular wall, by ye Porters Lodge £20. 4s. 6d. For the circular wall on ye west side of ye Great Court Yard."

There are more extracts, but it is unnecessary to give them here.

These walls shared the same fate as the Lodges, and the following are Repton's reasons for their destruction.

Extracts from the Book of Repton.

"The spacious Court surrounded by a colonnade had frequently been mentioned to me as a wonderful effort of art, and then the distant country was excluded by a wall and by a village and trees beyond it ; this artificial area was one of the most striking appendages of a palace, etc. etc. It is therefore only by excluding nature that we can produce the effect of greatness in artificial objects, and a large Court surrounded by buildings can have no pretensions to look natural."

In the commencement of his book Repton addresses a letter to Lord Winchelsea, in which he says he lays before

him a plan for the "Improvement of Burley," and goes on to say: "I flatter myself this small manuscript will remain in your Lordship's Library as a record not only of the proposed improvement of Burley, but also the jealous anxiety which I feel for the taste of a country, so large a portion of whose scenery has been committed to my direction; and as few places can vie with Burley in magnificence both artificial and natural, I beg your Lordship to accept my thanks for the opportunity you have offered me, of showing how I think so singular a subject required to be treated.

"I have the Honour to be, etc.,

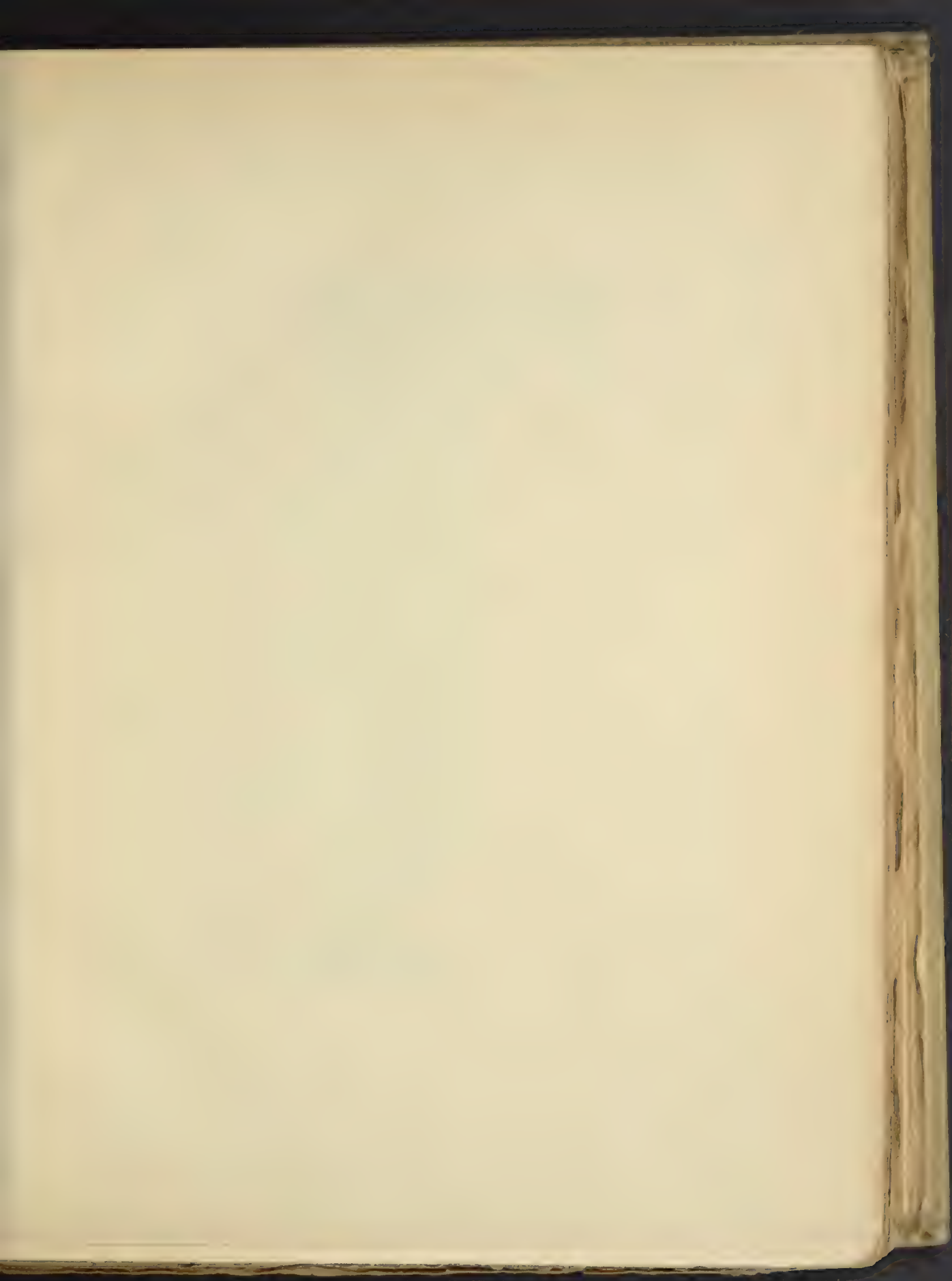
"Most Obedient Servant,

"H. REPTON. *April, 1796.*"

There seem to be no statistics given as to the cost of pulling down the walls and putting up the railings, but it was probably a very expensive business. The only remains of the wall are the entry into the Stable yard and the side entry in the Court. Many people agree with Repton that the railings are a great improvement, but there may also be a few who will sigh over Repton and his alterations.

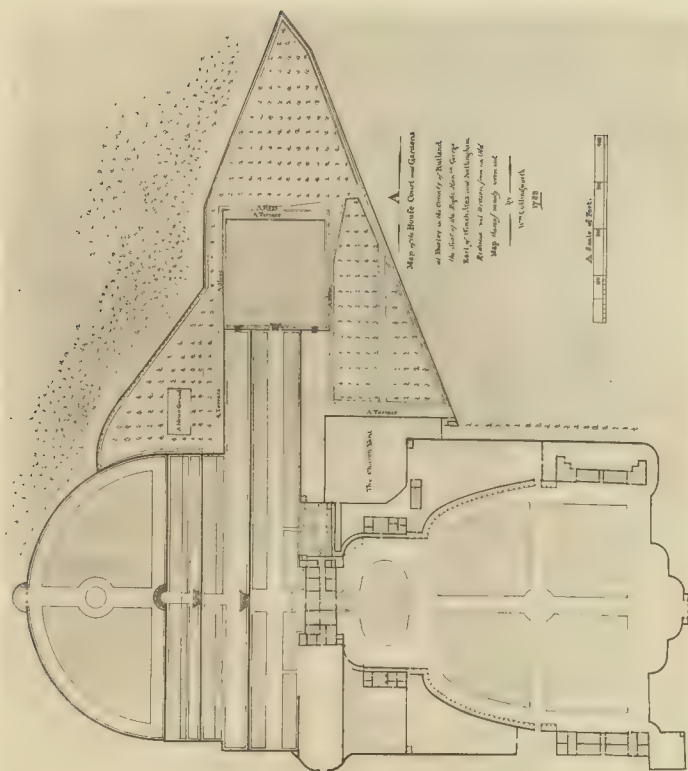
The Terrace and Gardens.

In the time of Buckingham, as will be seen from the Ground Plan given at page 6 of Part I., there were three terraces to the south of the house, rising one above the other, the first fifty-nine feet long, the second and third fifty-four feet, these terraces were evidently slightly altered or enlarged by Lord Nottingham and two others added.

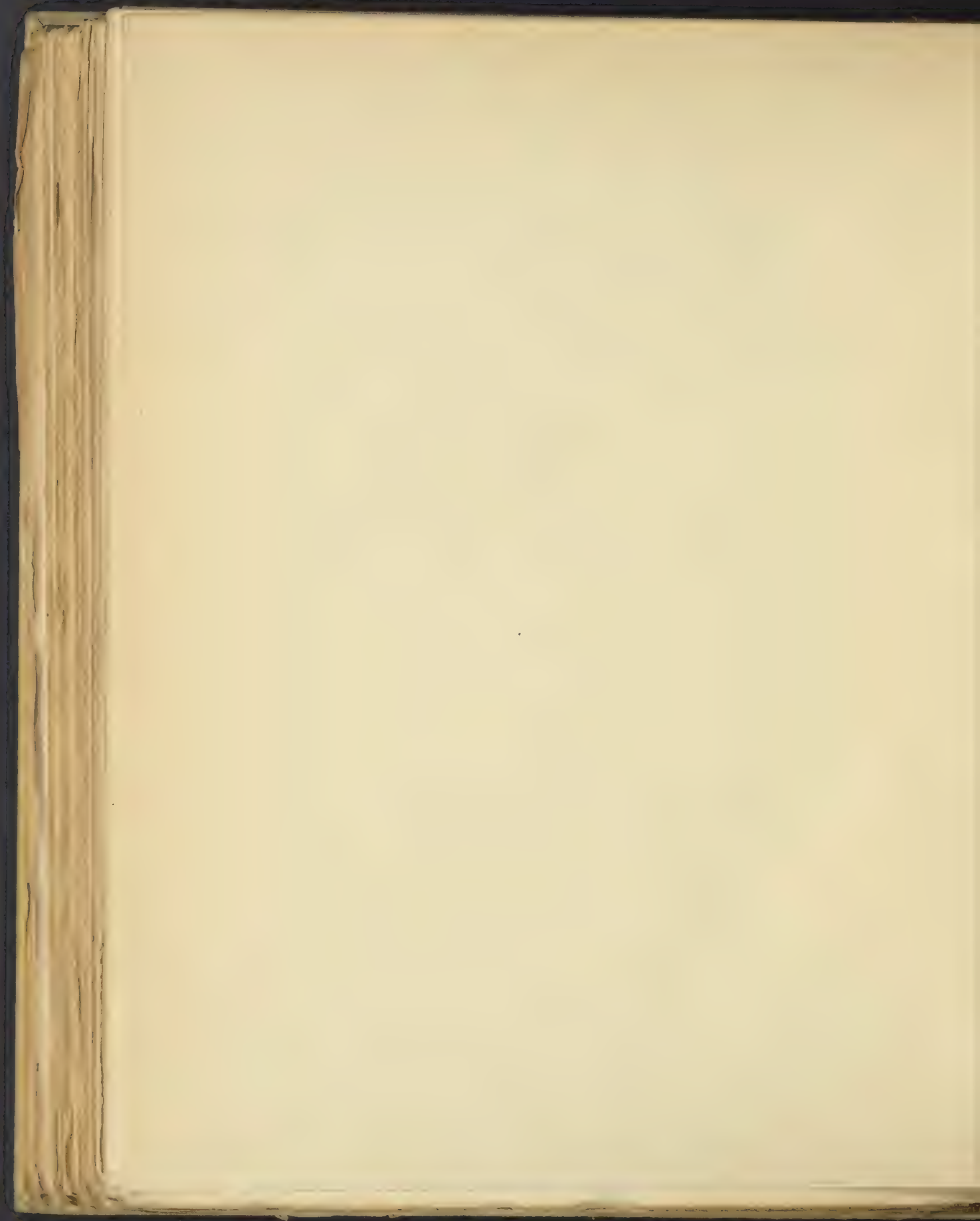




BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, FROM THE NORTH.



GROUND PLAN OF THE HOUSE, COURT AND GARDENS, IN 1783.
FROM MSS. AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



Extracts from the Accounts Concerning the Terraces and
Gardens.

AGREEMENT.

Lord Nottingham agreed with Joshua Walker for the building of his garden walls. The walls were "to be made of brick and stone, those against the mount walls to be above the groundable two or more foot thick as shall be necessary with the weight of earth that lyes against them or otherwise needful." The walls were also "to be coaped with Clipsham stone" and at every ten foot distance there "was to be a peer or butress two foot square into the ground of the mount walk against which the wall is built." Lord Nottingham was to furnish "the lime, water, sand and mortar, earth and brickstones. *April 14th, 1697.*"

EXTRACT FROM AGREEMENT.

"Whereas the said Earl designs to coap all or part of the said Walls with Clipsham freestone, the said Walker shall work the freestone which is to be seventeen inches broad in all respects fitt for setting particularly in the manner following, viz.—the stone shall be well and fair wrought and cleansed with a firmer as the ashler used about the said Earl's House and truly bedded about and well jointed; one side thereof shall be four inches thick that there may be a current for the rains to run off it and at such distance as the said Earl shall appoint in the said stone shall be wrought a pedestall of a foot square for a flower pot. The edges of stone rounded off and underneath the thin side there shall be a chanell or rabbit wall wrought to prevent the rains from getting to the wall for and at the rate of two pence farthing per foot running measure."

EXTRACT FROM AGREEMENT. III.

That "the said William Edge of the parish of Kensington has agreed with Lord Nottingham to levell the walks and gardens at Burley as were set out and measured by Henry Dormer and Roger Jenkins (gardener) and to find carts and Horses for performing the said work, the said Earl allowing grass and hay for the said horses for and in consideration of the summe of £300." The work was to be finished by Michaelmas, Nov. 24th, 1696.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS.

"Varney and Baker masons by turning arches in ye 106ft. walk 3 half arches, 64 walls to bear those arches, etc., £23. 8s. By building part of the wall between ye 106ft. walk and 56ft. walk, viz. east from the steps, part of ye East staircase, etc. £3. 13s. 1½d. Varney by building part of the wall at the East end of the 56ft. walk £1. os. 9¼d. Parker ye mason for a piece of dry wall that was blown down in the Kitchen Garden £2. 3s. 7¾d. By building the Kitchen garden wall brick and stone £35. 11s. 9d. The middle wall in ye garden House, ye wall by ye bowling green £6. 16s. 6d."

"1705. Bottomley; by stone sent in for the Long Terras walk, etc., ballisters, for ye garden Steps at 9d., etc. Foundations, viz. East end of the terrace dry wall of the Kitchen gardens gateway on the North side of the Kitchen gardens, the sheds for the paultry in the kitchen backyard, etc., £23. 15s. od."

"1712. By three Roll-stones for ye gardens £1. 10s. Benj. Sellers and partners. By levelling a second time the Hill at the East end of the House, levelling the bowling Green, &c., £115. 2s. 7d."



SIDE VIEW OF THE TERRACES. FROM *Repton's Book*.



"Robert Towel by digging the third time at the Hill near the East end of the House and for carting the same £41. 19s. 9d. William Berridge ye carpenter for work at ye Bowling green house £6. 19s. 10d. Mr. Blunt ye painter by painting ye melon frames in ye garden 116 yds at 6d. £2. 18s."

In 1795 these terraces were all swept away with the exception of the upper or Great Terrace which still exists. It is needless to state that this was the work of Repton. The following extracts from his book show his reason for so doing.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MSS. OF REPTON.

"I shall now proceed to describe the manner in which the upper terrace may be preserved and the others obliterated; because it forms the aptest time of demarkation betwixt the natural and artificial scenery of Burley. Whatever is avowedly the work of art should appear to be great and costly, or it becomes mean; this is very strongly exemplified in the low red brick walls which so much degrade the character of the place. The alternate Red walls and green slopes with the yellow cornfields are violently out of harmony in point of colour, and the long flight of steps descending towards the road which avoids them, &c. If the upper terrace remain, the earth taken from the second terrace will be sufficient for all the purposes of levelling those below. This I compute at 450 ft. long \times 7 wide \times 5 deep, 157,500 cubic ft. or 5,833 cubic yards, which I suppose could be moved at 4d., thus the whole expense of moving the ground would not cost more than £100. I compute the length about 450 ft. because I propose the ends to be planted with thorns, holley and hazels or other low brushwood, that will

not intercept the view although they hide the irregularity of the ground which it would be needless to levell far beyond the extent of the balustrade." In another place he says the numerous flights of steps have no object. "Instead of a low brick wall there should be a balustrade." This was done and we see the result in the present terrace. In the pictures from Repton's MSS. given here showing the terraces before they were destroyed, we see how very fine the effect must have been, but there may however be many who will agree with Repton that the present arrangement is better. It is well for the place that his alterations ended here, for he wished to destroy the fine elm avenue at the bottom of the wood, remarking in his MSS., "There is no ingenuity in planting long rows of trees, cutting straight lines through a long wood, &c." He gives pictures of how he would have it altered, winding roads made, trees dotted about and artificial water. Fortunately he was not allowed to have his own way in this, the avenue and wood remain as they were.

THE DOG KENNEL, THE WIND ENGINE, THE FISH POND, THE PARK, AND DEER.

The Dog Kennel.

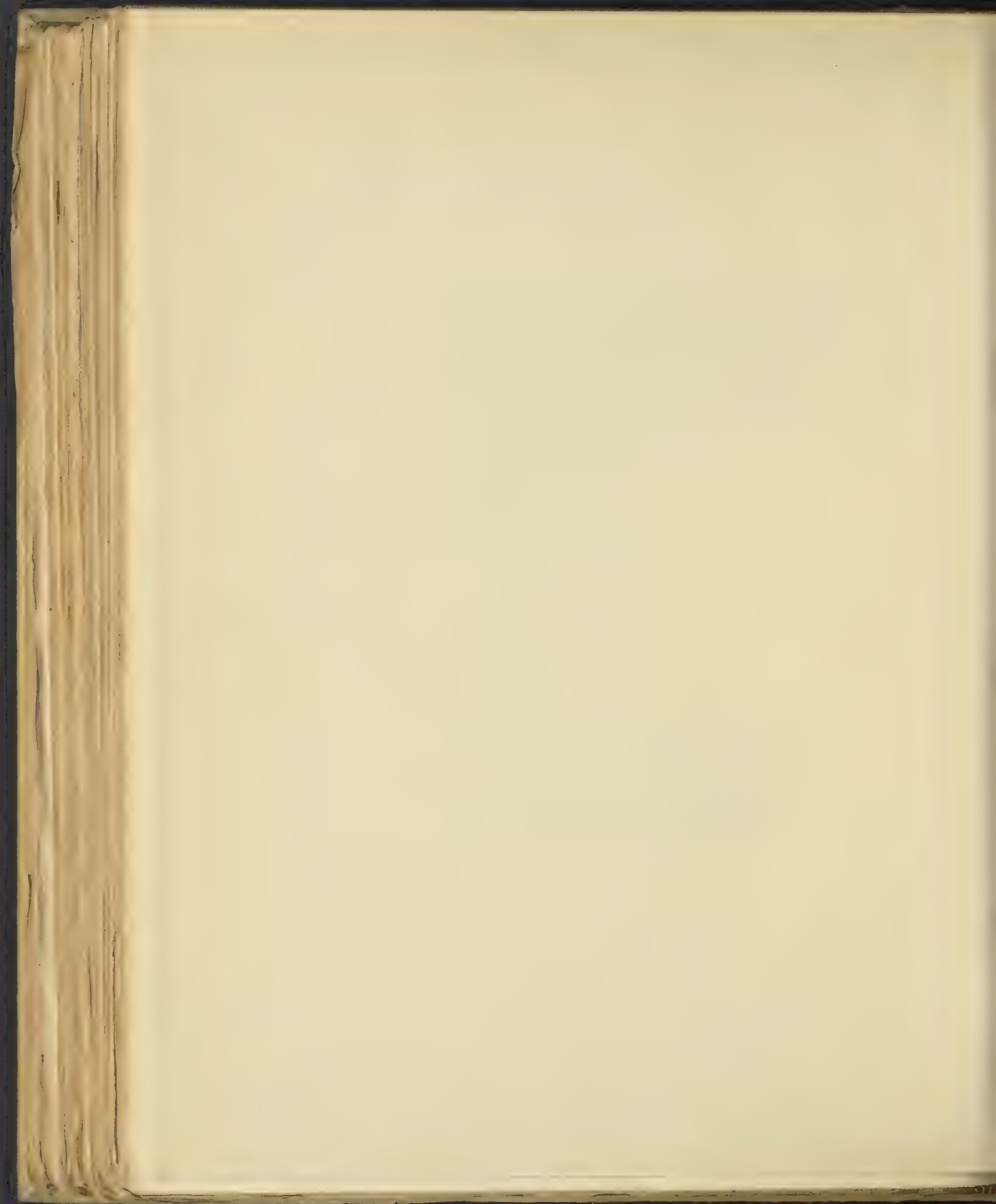
EXTRACTS FROM ACCOUNTS.

"Nath. Halliday by working at ye Colt-house and stable at ye dog kennel, digging ye foundations, pitching with old stone the Stable at the dog kennel 90 ft. £1. 12s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d."

"Frances Green by slating the dog-kennel £6. 12s. 5d. Loading slates at Oakham, loading in ye wood yard, goeing to Collyweston two days, etc., £1. 10s."



VIEW OF THE TERRACES FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE WOOD.
FROM *Repton's* BOOK.



"1707 Wm. Berridge ye carpenter, two roofs of the sheds and boyling place at ye Dog-kennel House 30 ft. 4 ins., 15s. Flooring at ye Dog-kennel House 18s. The stair at ye Dog-kennel House 18s. Dresser shelves and cupbord at ye dog-kennel £1. 3s."

These old dog-kennels stood to the right of the upper fishpond ; nothing now remains of them except two cottages.

The Wind Engine.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS.

"Hawley and ye Masons the wall round the moat £27. 16s. 2d., paving the lodging room at the moat with bricks, 6s. 2½d. By sand close stone delivered, viz., 746 loads for the wall at the Moat at 8d., £24. 17s. 4d. 53 loads of mortar 8s. 10d. Charlesworth ye Brickmaker 1,200 bricks for coping the walls at the Moat £23. 18s. 3d., 1724. Sharp for ashler for ye moat walls 18s. 2d. Bursnal the quarryman coping for the moat walls at 3½d., £3. 11s. 2d. Mr. Geo. Seracold. By charges of an engine Wind mill for forcing water to the house, viz., Math. Bagley ye founder 18 bell mottle brasses at 14d. per pound. Henry Corbet ye Smith, viz., four plates and nails 2 brass barrels for the upright shafts, 2 screw bolts, 2 hoops and straps for ye bottom of ye shaft, a new crank and fly, 4 screw bolts, and 4 staples."

"1703. Six bolts and 4 staples for ye crank, a new gripe rod and swivel, etc., etc., £27. 9s. For timber, Oak Spars, Brewel timber, Elm Timber, Firr Timber, 200½ c. of nailes at 6d., etc., £29. 6s. Mr. Serracold for his trouble and his journeys, etc., twenty guineas. Pipes from ye engine to ye House, viz., 400 yds of two-inch at 4d., 973 yds of

2½ ins. at 4d., taking up the pipes that lay to ye engine room £1."

Among the plans of the house is one of the engine ; it is almost the same as those used in the present day for the purpose of pumping water. The old water supply came from a series of little ponds in a covert in the park, about half a mile from the House. Thirty or more years ago a reservoir was built in the wood, and the old engine ponds were abandoned. The water is forced to the house by a horse engine ; water is, however, unfortunately, extremely scarce at Burley.

The Fish Ponds.

The lower pond was made by Lord Nottingham, the upper was already in existence. There are many extracts in the accounts referring to the making of the pond, also to the bridge and the boat house. The whole seems to have cost something like £120.

The Park.

Part of the park, as has been before mentioned, existed in Norman times ; it was enlarged and improved by the Duke of Buckingham, and it is most probable that it was further enlarged by Lord Nottingham, although there are no accounts of his so doing.

Extracts from an Agreement concerning the Park and Wood.

That John Peele and John Lewen "shall and will sett up good substantial posts and pailles in ye parke of Burleighe from ye Eight riding to ye parke wall by ye Brick Kilnes, only except ye bredth of ye Great Riding, also each gate in

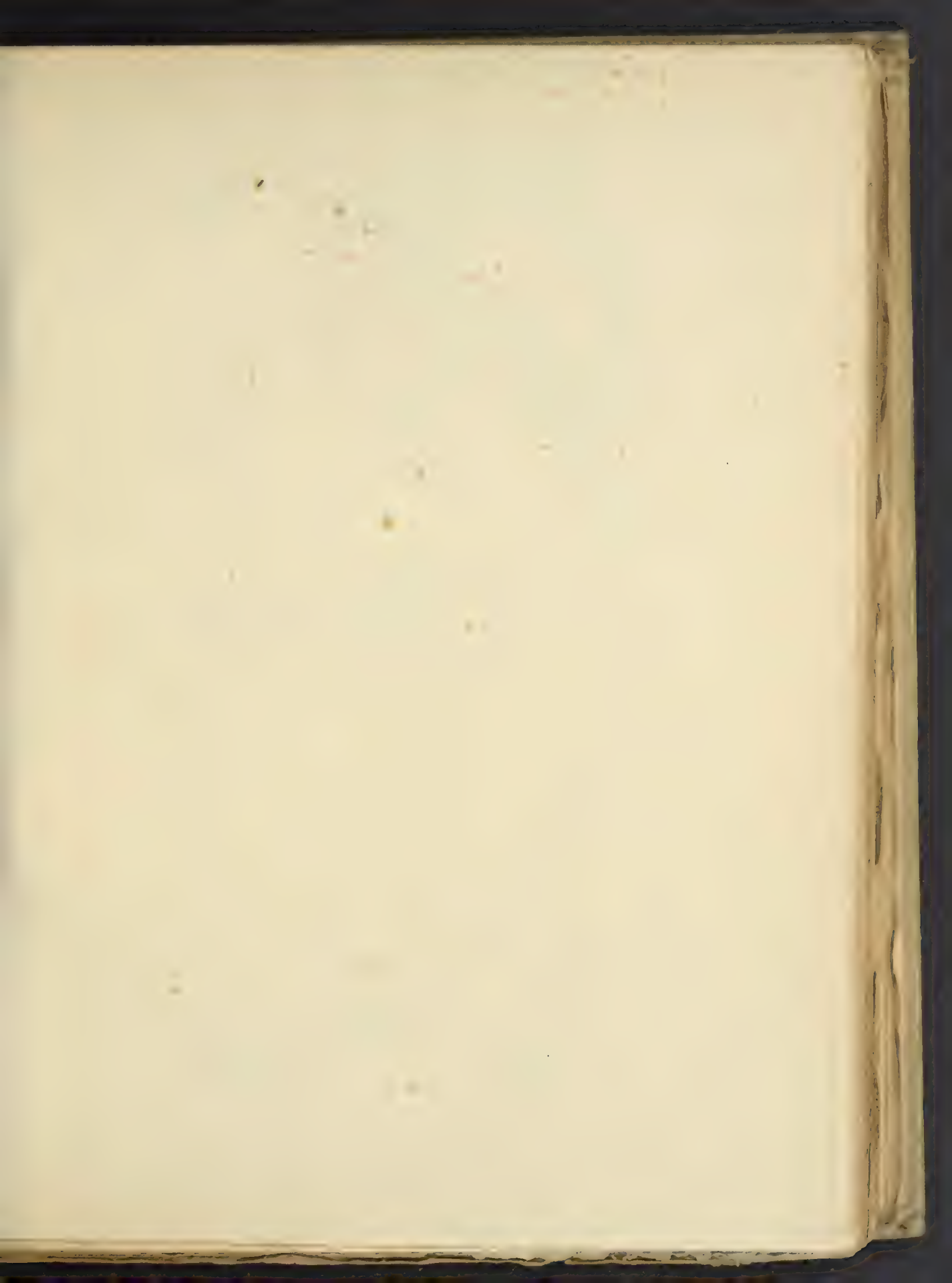




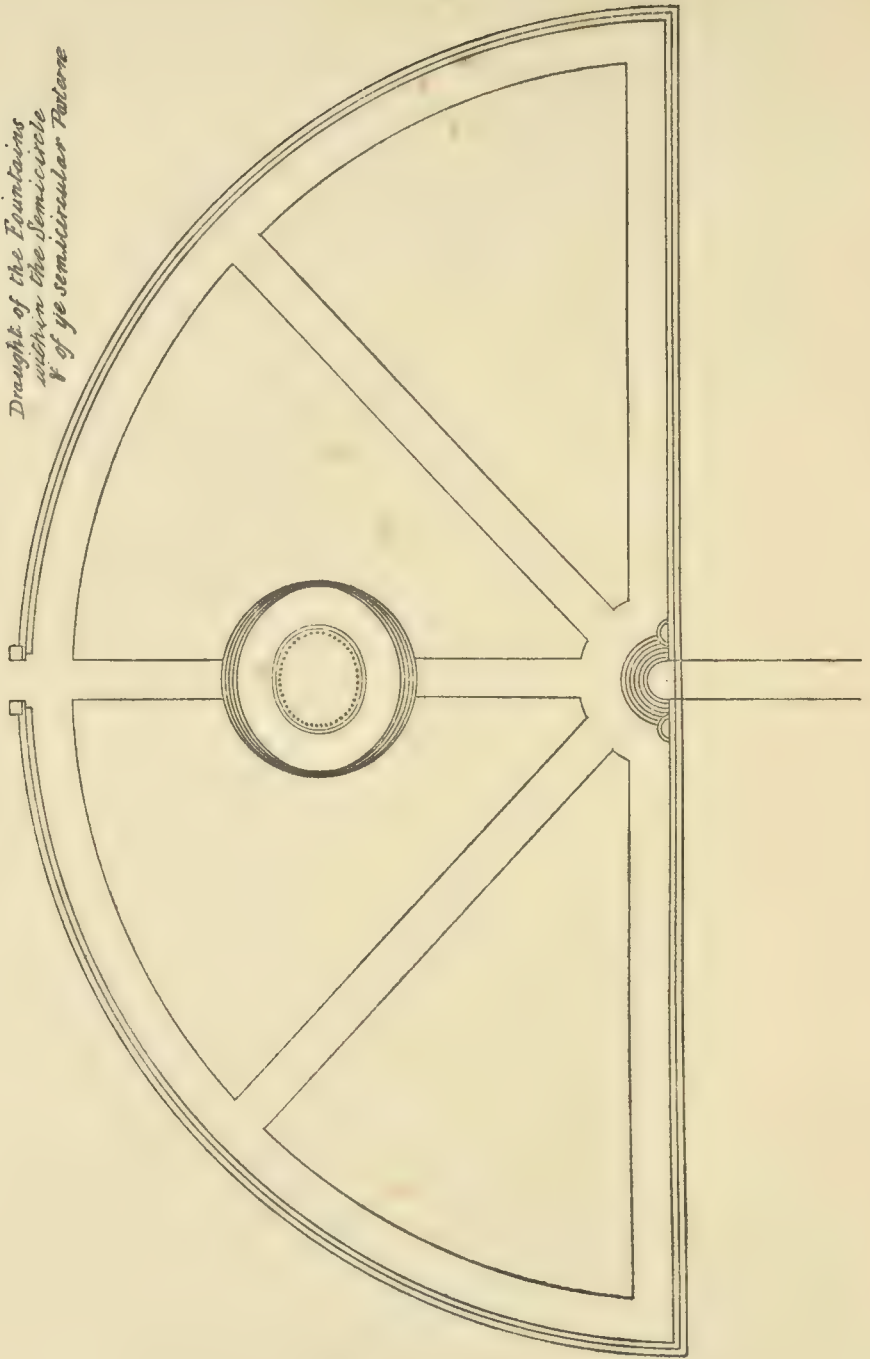
VIEW OF THE HOUSE FROM THE FISHPONDS.



BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, FROM THE ELM AVENUE TO THE SOUTH.



*Draught of the Fountains
within the Semicircle
& of the semicircular Palace*



ye other ridings." They were also to "sett ye pailles as firm and high as a part already now sett East of ye Eight riding gate," and to "hewe and cleave ye posts and pailles at their own charge in ye places where ye timber shall be filled. Also ye posts and pailles shall be laid by ye work as they shall think fitt at ye charge of ye Earle of Nottingham, ye work to be finished by December ye 25th, except great distress of weather and in consideration" Lord Nottingham was to pay "3s. 6d. per diker."

EXTRACTS FROM ACCOUNTS.

"1708. Thos. Wilkinson ye joiner for 24 rack for foddering the deer in length 238 ft. at 4d. per foot £3. 17s."

"Paid to William Mitchel for driving ye deere and washing ye sheep £1. 11s."

"Paid Thomas Ransom for a boy watching the gates in buck season 2s. 6d."

Extract from Lord Nottingham's Will written after the Fashion of a Letter to his Brothers.

"And I would have her (Lady Nottingham) have venison out of ye park as she has occasion and also ye wood out of ye yearly sales wch she shall spend at Burley in chambers: and though I intend to take ye whole park into my hands yet I think it will be best yt. you lett such parts of it as are now in tennants hands but grant no liberty of ploughing any part thereof."²⁸

With the Park and deer end the building of the house and the making of the gardens, &c. It is not for us to judge or pick out the faults that there may be, even in what

²⁸ Part of the Park has since been cut up for ploughing.

appears to be a very perfect whole. Rather let us admire and cherish what is certainly "a goodly heritage," and hope that those who succeed may prove worthy of a great inheritance and strive to maintain it in a fitting manner. Few things are so sad as the general decay of fine places, either from the wilful waste of their owners, or the stress of hard times, but while a man honestly can, let him cling to the place which is his birthplace and heritage, and be grateful for the possession.

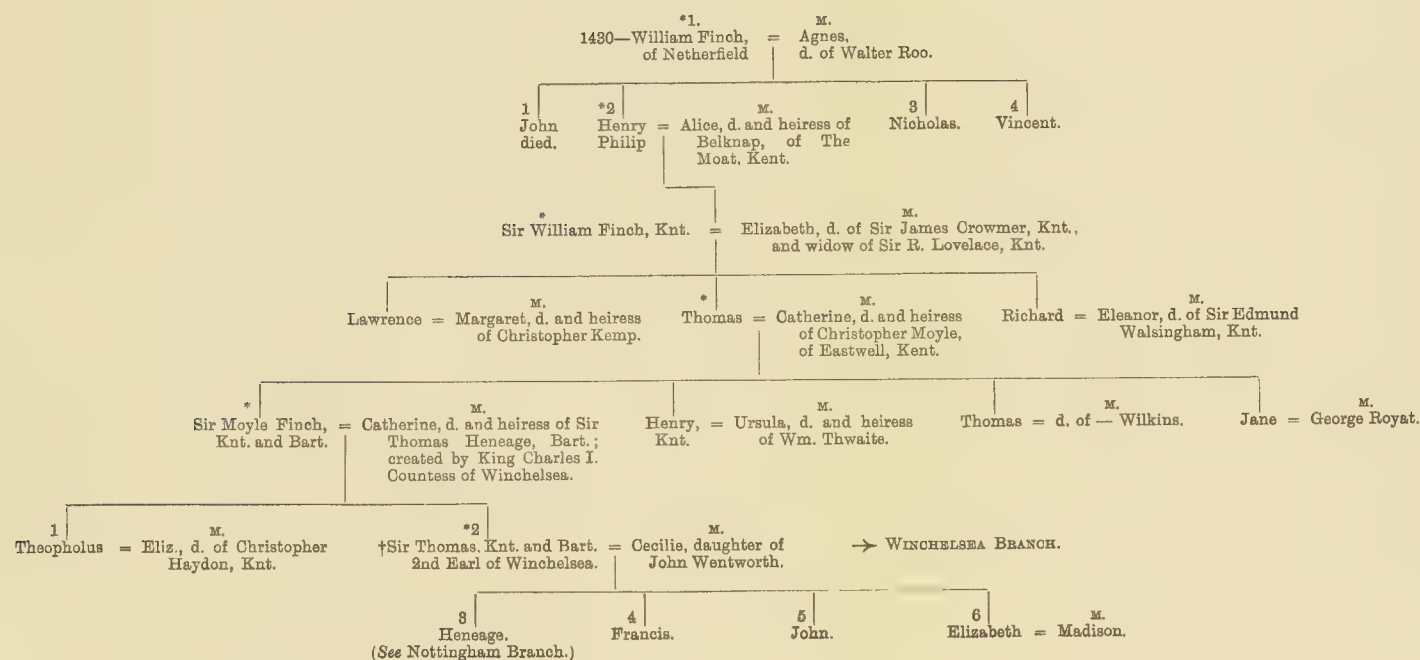


PART II.

THE HISTORY OF THE OWNERS OF
BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

*"To understand the true quality of people you must look into their minds, and
examine their pursuits and aversions."*—MARCUS AURELIUS.

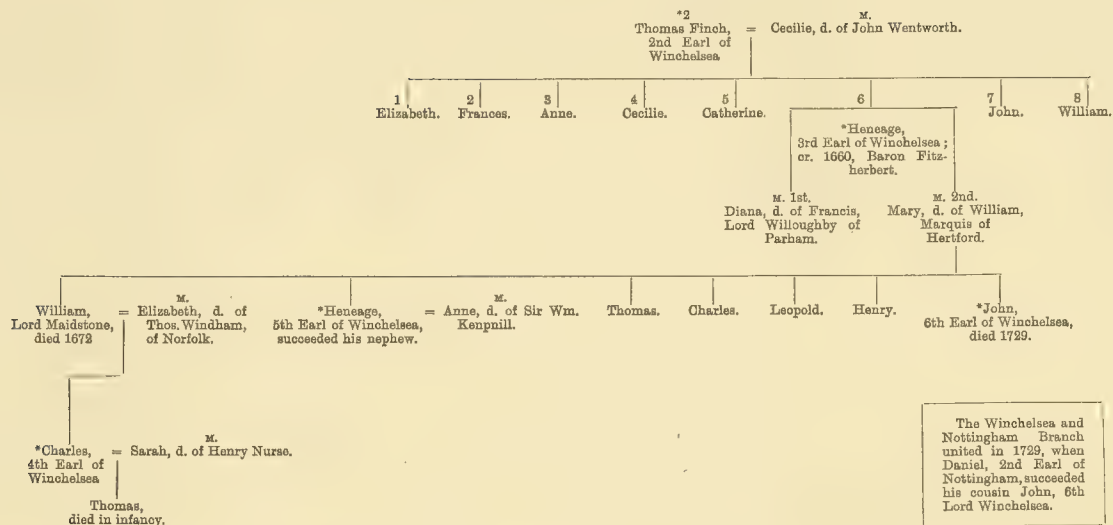
GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE FINCHES REFERRED TO IN THIS VOLUME.



† Winchelsea Branch.

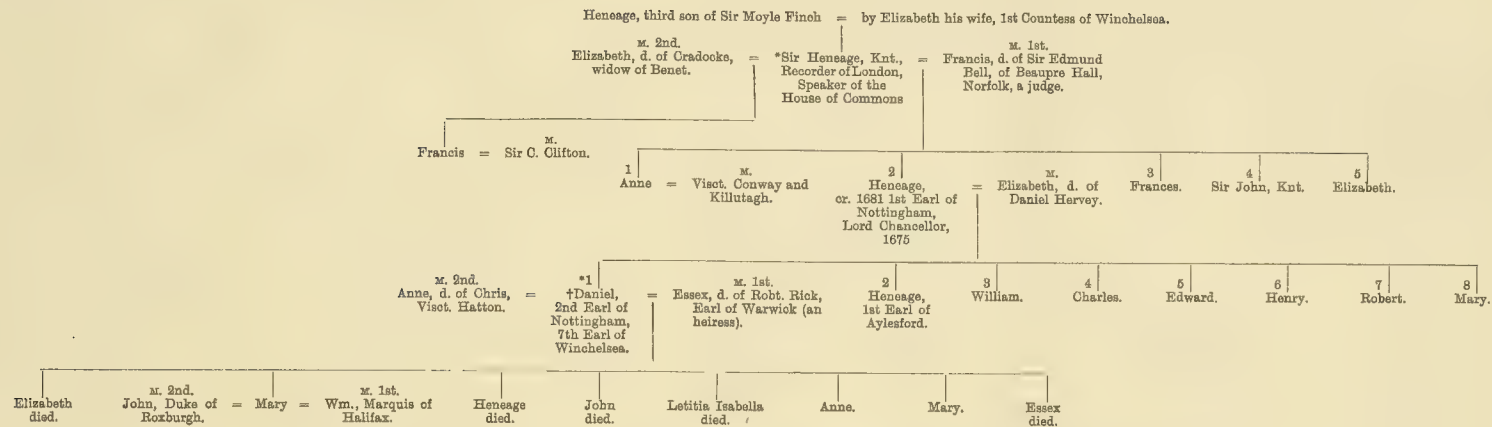
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WINCHELSEA BRANCH—(continued).



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THE NOTTINGHAM BRANCH.

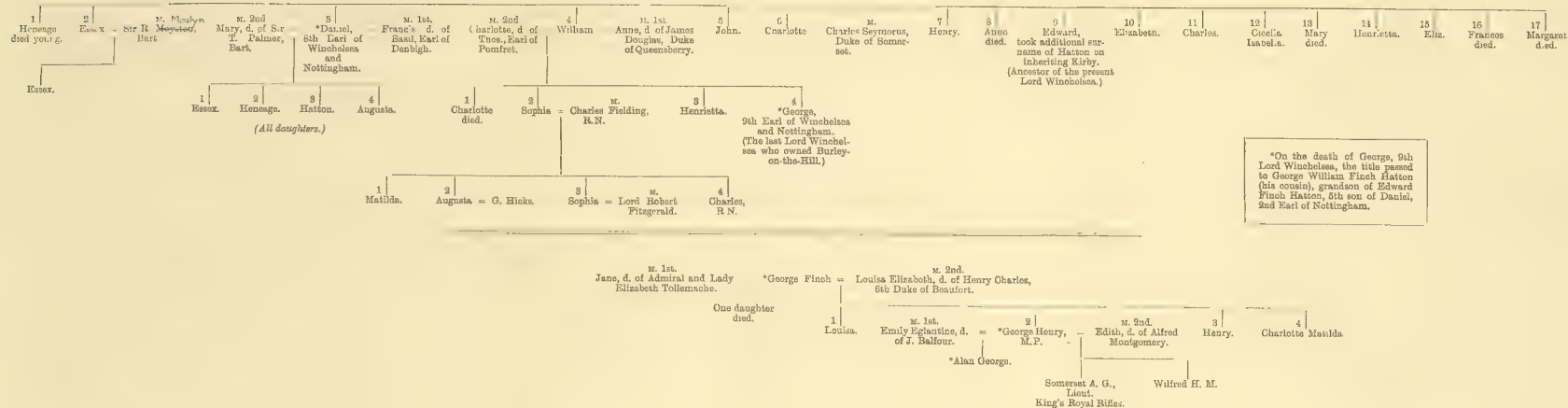


† His full titles were Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, Viscount Maidstone, and Baron Finch of Daventry. Here the Winchelsea and Nottingham branches join.

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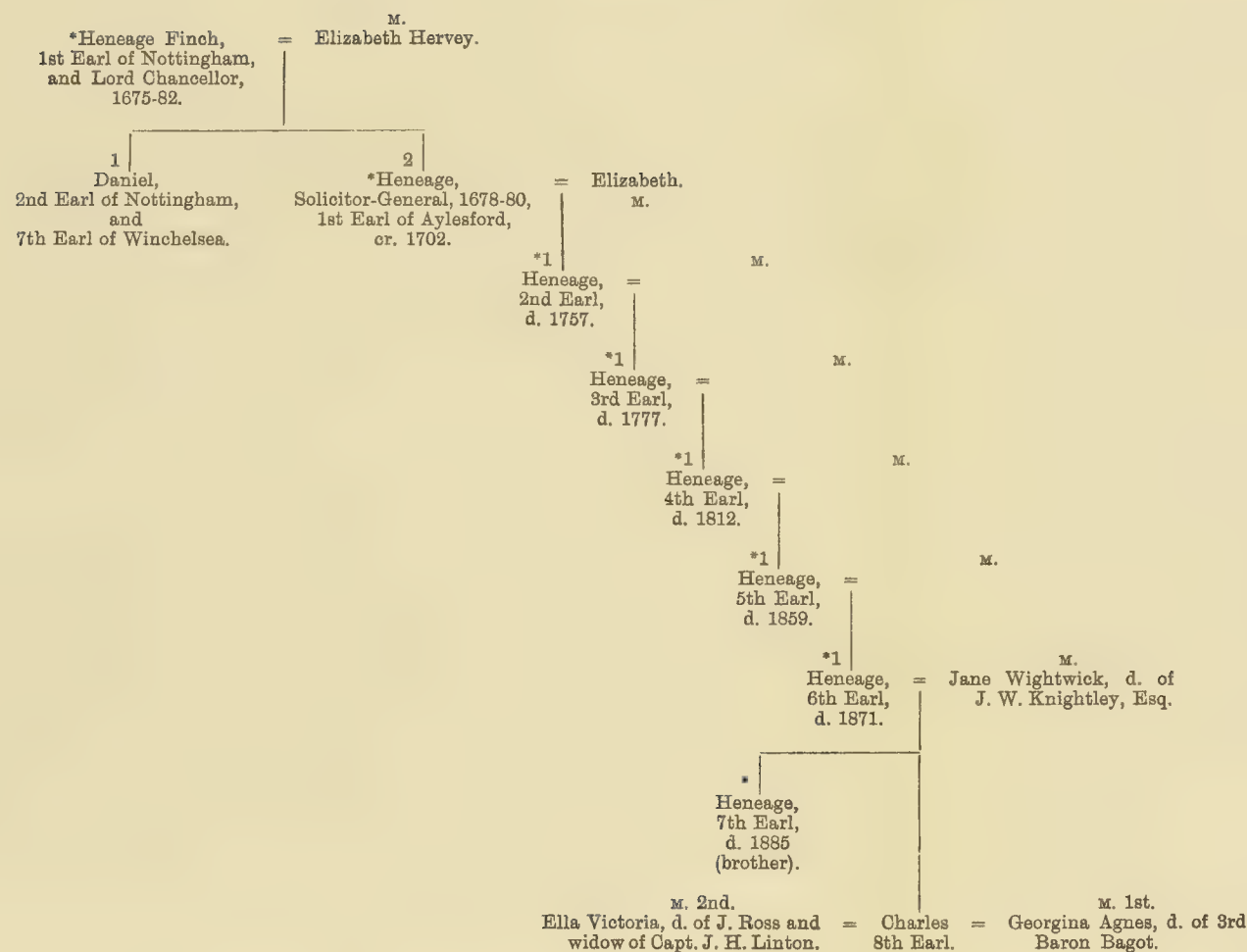
NOTTINGHAM AND WINCHELSEA BRANCH—(continued).

CHILDREN OF DANIEL, 2ND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM, BY HIS SECOND WIFE, ANNE.



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AYLESFORD BRANCH.



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PART II.

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FINCH FAMILY IN THE FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES.

THE Finch family is said to be descended from Henry Fitzherbert, Chancellor to Henry I. On inheriting the property of the Finches they took that name. In an old inscription in Braborne Church is the following, Finch *alias* Herbert. There are several monuments to these Finches of early times in that church.¹

(1) The first person mentioned, of any importance, bearing that name is one William Finch of Netherfield, who was Sheriff of Sussex and Surrey, in the eighth year of Henry VI.; he also sat in parliament for the Port of Winchelsea. In an old book, now at Burley-on-the-Hill, is the following, "In this Mannes tyme, the name of Herbert was left, and frequently used afterwarde for a forename; he married Agnes, daughter of Walter Roo of Dartford, esquire."

(2) Sir William Finch, grandson of the former, was a soldier and served in the sieges of Teroven and Tourney;

¹ In an illuminated pedigree of great pretensions, now at Burley-on-the-Hill, their descent is traced from Ethelred, King of England, and his Queen. But I am inclined to think that, like other pedigrees, this is rather far fetched.

The letters compiled in this volume are from the original MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

having behaved with great gallantry at the Battle of the Spurs, he was rewarded with the honour of Knighthood. In the Book of Pedigree and history before mentioned is found this extract concerning him :—

“At the appointment of the King and Queene to Canterbury, and so to Callis and Guisnes, to the meeting of the French Queene; this Sir William Finch was one of those Knights that attended that service. He had his Chaplaine, xi. servants and eight horses all allowed him in the King's Troope, his Lady, then also attending on the Queene, had allowed for her attendance one wooman, twoe men servants, and foure horses, his daughter being one of the maydes of honor to the Queene, had allowed to wayte on her, one wooman, twoe men servants, and three horses.” In consideration of his services Henry VIII. in the twenty-third year of his reign, granted Sir William and his heirs the manor of Barrow Marche, alias Burmache in the county of Kent near Canterbury. He was twice married and was succeeded by his second son.

(3) Thomas Finch, who early in life became a soldier, in the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, joined with Lord Abergaveny in opposing Sir Thomas Wyatt and drove him out of Kent. For this and other services he was created a Knight of the Carpet. History relates that “This noble Knight whilst he exposed himself for the service of his prince and country to the mercyleless seas in the expedition to Newhaven, was by a disasterous fortune and a miserable shipwracke, untymely deprived of life, to the general greife of his friendes and country. He maryed Katherine, eldeste daughter and one of the two Co-heires of Sir Thomas Moyle of Eastwel aforesaide Knight.” This Lady had Eastwell as her portion.

Letter from Lady Finch to Sir Moyle Finch.

Address—"To my very good Sonne Mr. Moyle Fynch give these."

"Sonne fynch I am most willing to be With my good daughter and to see my Lady Heanage and my Lyttle ones butt if tyme will Suffer I Wold stay here intill after newe yeares day for that I do then appoynt god Willing to have dyvers of my Freandes and neyhgbours heare with me and therefore lett me have my daughters opinyon by this berer, for setting all matters apart the lord suffering I will not fayle to be with her: if this berer may have the measure of your Parler I will send you Hangings for the same or any other thinge in this House may pleasure you; and so with the lords blessing and myne and most hartie comendations to yourself and my good daughter from all your friends heare. I comitt you and all yours to hys mercifull and continuall goodnes. from estwell this VI of december 1580.

"Your very loving mother,

"CATHERINE FFYNCH."

Letter from Lady Finch to her Son.

Address—"To her loving Sonne Mr. Moyle Fynch at Mote geve these."

Touching Fkelsham march I have taken order that my man Shall go to see What Shall be requysytt for me to do in the same. For your comynge hether it shall not be convenyent for me to confer about any matters. Tell Mr. Sent leger may be present. Who knoweth the estate of our matters better than I: And this comitting you to God. I leve for this tyme; the 5 of november

"Your Lovinge mother,

"CATHERINE FFYNCH."

Sir Thomas was succeeded by his eldest son.

(4) Sir Moyle Finch Knt. and Bart. who married the only daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Heanage, Vice Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth, &c. In the papers at Burley is this little entry respecting the marriage. "Elizabeth Heneage was married to Moyle Finch on Monday the 4th day of November in the year of our Lord 1572, at Heneage House in London." The paper adds that Moyle died "Early Sunday Morning 18 of Dec. 1614."²

Letter from Elizabeth, Lady Finch (afterwards 1st Countess of Winchelsea) to her Mother, Lady Heneage.

Address—"To my very good mother the Lady Henneag att Corte."

"this night late Mr. Fynche recued sum letters from his lawyers that kepes him occupyed so as he prays you pardun him that he writes not to you, we can here send you no news but earnestly desiar to hier something from you we writ to you sence we herde any thying from you, my thynkes we shall here now of sum prety progres, so Copthall be not in the way I should be very glad of it for then I hope then we should se you here, were I thynke surely you should fynd very good and swet ayre thatt should in sum sort suply such other lackes as you should fynde here with all, and so praying the lord Jesus to kepe you ever, with Mr F and my humbyl duty to my father and you I leve you

"Your humbyl daughter E. FYNCHÉ."

² "Taken from the Parchment Books of my Lady Heneage, wife of Sir Thomas Heneage."



F. Fynche Eastwell

ELIZABETH, FIRST COUNTESS OF WINCHILSEA,
WIFE OF SIR MOYLE FINCH, KT., AND DAUGHTER OF SIR THOMAS HENEAGE.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Van Somer*.

"I cannot forgyt my Parke but must nedes remember it, I am every day so besy about the seying the Tymber feled for it."

Letter from Sir Moyle Finch to his Mother-in-law, Lady Heneage.

Address—"To my honorable good Mother the Lady Heanage."

1859. "I do greatly thank you as well for the good newes I receive as that you have changed your own time in favor of me. I hope that the good hand whence this pece of good success cometh will both continue it and all things agreeable to it. We are here where little goeth forward with much ado. On Tuesday we send the children to stubes of whom I am well persuaded for their book and other repairs, I shall soon know how this will Fall out. I wish further you might tarry at the Cort without hurt or wold like to come hither without much trouble, because I am more troubled to thynke that while you should be at home which is so seldom I should not be with you I beseeche you that the Parke may be remembered. I knoe I should not be so cumbersome to you in it but because I see that Tyme rather brings increase of trouble, than any other occasion, and I think you made half promises be forgotten it was spoken of agayne then after. I am the bolder to remember it to you. And so with my Humble remembrance to my Father and you I leave you to the Lord Jesus.

"Your sone most bound—MOYLE FFINCHE.

"I must not forgyt my humbyl duty to my Father and you with my thanks for his remembrance of me."

Letter from Sir Thomas Heneage to his daughter Elizabeth,
Lady Finch.

Address—"To my daughter The Lady Fynche att
Estwell."

"I thank you my good Bess for your love but because
your mother sends not herself word though mothing—I
pray you particularly advertise me by this carrier (whom I
send off purposely) how she doth, how we doe here you shall
know by your mother to whom Countess, my Lady Oxford
most heartily commends you and prayed me to send you
word she cares for her Bess. More I have no leisure for but
to wish me at Estwell (Eastwell) and so pray the Lord Jesus
to bless you.

"Your Father that loves you

"T. HENEAGE."

Many words in these old letters are so indistinct as to be
almost indistinguishable. The writing is old Court or law
hand, and therefore very difficult to decipher.

Letter from Thomas, afterwards 2nd Earl of Winchelsea, to his
Father, Sir Moyle Finch.⁸

1605. Address—"To the Right worsh. and my verie
lovinge Father Sir Moile Finche Knight—theise."

"I received the 20th of this month your letters of
the 27th June with the bill of 70lb. which presentilie upon
my showing was accepted, and paiement against the same

⁸ There was practically no 1st Earl of Winchelsea, as the title was
first given to Elizabeth Finch, mother of Thomas. In many Peerages
he is named 2nd Earl, but a few call him 1st Earl. In this volume he
is called 2nd Earl, as in many of the old MSS. at Burley he was
evidently reckoned thus.

promised, where as it pleased you to enjoin me, the learning to ride with the favourable bestowinge of the 20lb. extraordinaire for my purse, besides my most humble thanks my uttermost endeavours shall be ever studious to deserve it, as yett I have not begunne to ride though I am in some form of agreement with an excellent rider in this town, which pleseth me much better than to turne back to florence or naples, since beside the change and trouble of me moving to this place before seen. I shall be here in the equal hope of learning well, and with much more commodities for my studies, for the best professors of the Cevill laws of Italie leadinge. Shortelie in the schools I should willinglie be the audutor, nevertheless reserving no other bill myself, than a desire to obey your commands I shall rest in the place but till I hear your further pleasure. Padua august 23rd

"Your most duetifull and humblie obedient sonne

"THOMAS FINCHE."

On the death of her husband this lady was created by James I., Viscountess Maidstone, it is said on account of her great merits, though what they were we are not told. King Charles I. further created her Countess of Winchelsea. On her death in 1629, she was buried beside her husband in Eastwell Church in an altar tomb with their figures in marble upon it. Her second son Thomas succeeded to the title.

(5) Sir Heneage Finch her fourth son was the most celebrated of all her children, and was the founder, so to speak, of the Nottingham branch of the family. He was born at "Mole near Canterbury the 15th day of December, Thursday at 9 of the clock in the afternoon, A.O.O.M. 1580." He was educated as a lawyer, became Recorder of the city of London, and Speaker of the House of Commons. In

KEY TO SIGNATURES.

1. Sir Thomas Heneage, Vice Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth, Captain of Queen's Guard, Treasurer of her Chamber, Privy Councillor, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Father of Elizabeth, Lady Finch, first Countess of Winchelsea.

2. Elizabeth, Lady Finch, wife of Sir Moyle Finch, daughter of Sir Thomas Heneage, created by James I. Viscountess Maidstone in her own right, and by Charles I. Countess of Winchelsea.

3. Catherine, Lady Finch, daughter of Sir Thomas Moyle, of Eastwell. An heiress, wife of Sir Thomas Finch, a distinguished soldier, Knight (tempo. Queen Mary I.).

4. Sir Thomas Finch, second son of Sir Moyle Finch, succeeded his mother to the title of Winchelsea and the Eastwell property.

5. Sir Moyle Finch, son of above, of Eastwell, Kent, created Lord Finch (died 1614), married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Heneage, Knight.

6. Sir Heneage Finch, Knight, fourth son of Sir Moyle Finch, and his wife, the first Lady Winchelsea. Recorder of the City of London, and Speaker of the House of Commons, married Frances, daughter of Sir Edmund Bell (a judge). His eldest son was Heneage Finch, Lord Chancellor, and first Earl of Nottingham.

I

My father's great love

Therese
~~For~~

2

your humble daughter

F. Finche Eastwell 27 April

3

your very loving mother

Katharine Finche

4

your moste dutifull and
 humble obedient sonne

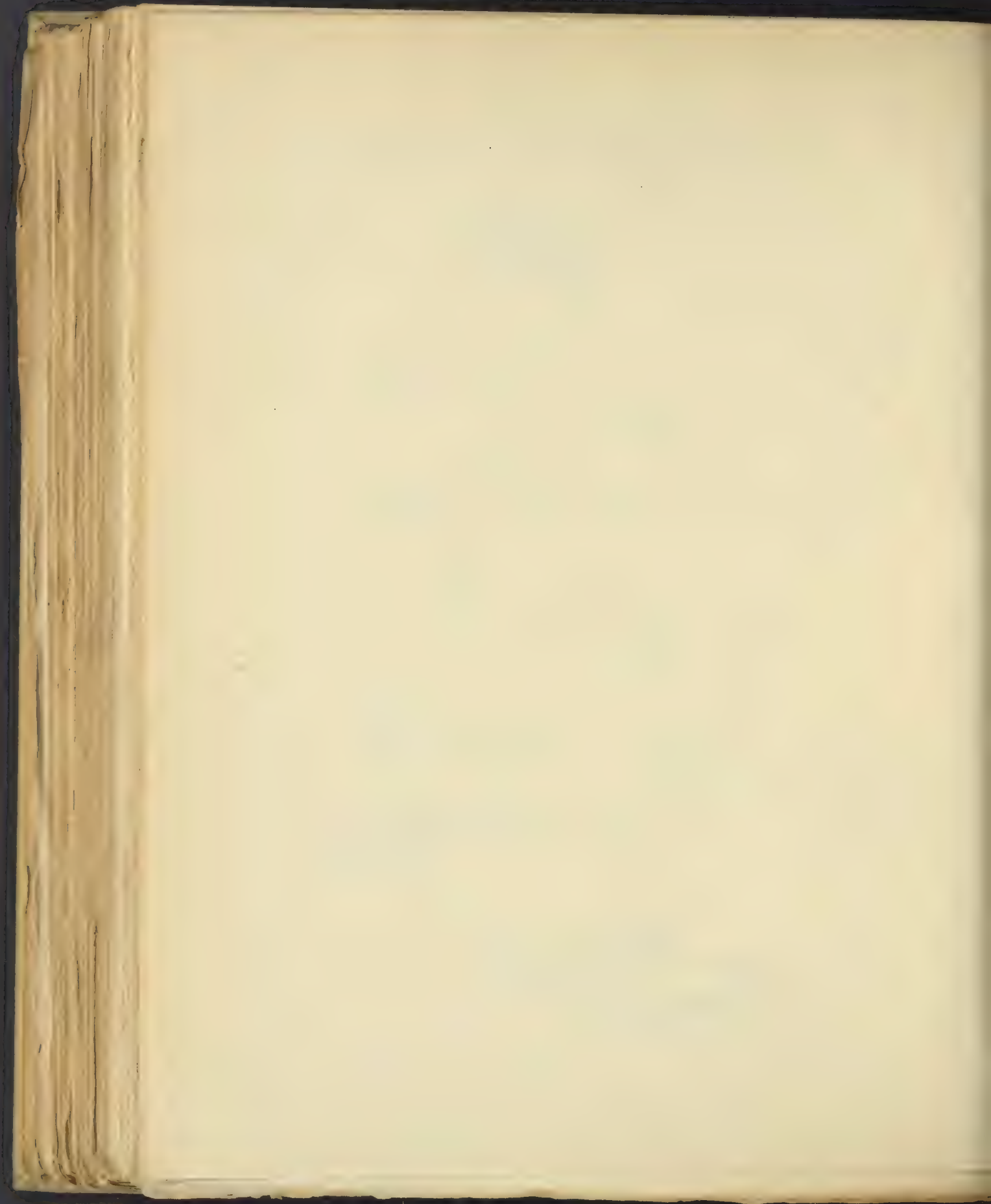
Thomas Finche

5

Margaret

6

¹⁶¹¹
 your most obedient sonne
 Henerye Finch.







LADY FINCH.

MOTHER OF THE CHANCELLOR AND WIFE OF SIR HENEAGE FINCH, KT.
DAUGHTER OF CHIEF BARON BELL.

FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Corn. Jansen*.

the second Parliament of Charles I. which met in 1626, he delivered to the King the address for the removal of the Duke of Buckingham. Sir Heneage had been a friend of Lord Bacon and gallantly stood by him when he was charged with bribery and corruption. He is said to have made a large fortune by his profession and lived splendidly in Kensington House, which was afterwards sold by his grandson to William III.⁴ He married Frances, daughter of Sir Edmund Bell (a judge) of Beaupre Hall, Norfolk; there are two pictures of him at Burley. Sir Heneage and Lady Finch are buried in the church at Eastwell, where a monument was erected to them in 1631. There are unfortunately no pictures of Sir Heneage, but there is a fine one of his wife by Cornelius Jansen. She was the mother of two extremely clever sons. The second son—

(6) JOHN, was born in 1626. He has often been mistaken for his cousin Sir John Finch, the Lord Keeper. Educated at Baliol College, Oxford, he took the degree of B.A. in 1646, he also studied at Christ's College, Cambridge, where he incorporated the same year. He studied medicine with great success and distinction in Italy, and on his return to England his merits were recognised by his own University and by the College of Physicians in London. He was Ambassador at Constantinople in 1673 and '75, and among the papers at Burley are several letters written by him from there. Sir John is remembered at Cambridge as a large benefactor to Christ's College, where he is interred in the same coffin with his life-long friend Sir Thomas Baines. There are two pictures of Sir John at Burley, one by a Dutchman, the other by Carlo Dolce, who also painted

⁴ Kensington House, now Kensington Palace.

the portrait of Sir Thomas Baines. These two pictures are considered curious as being the only portraits this artist is known to have painted.



HENEAGE FINCH,
LORD CHANCELLOR AND FIRST EARL OF
NOTTINGHAM.

"It is joy to the just to do judgment."



HENEAGE FINCH, LORD CHANCELLOR.

The eldest son is perhaps the most distinguished person of this name. "He was born at Heneage House in London the 13th day of June a little before one o'clock in the afternoon being Friday in the year of Our Lord 1621."¹ He was educated at Westminster School. In the year 1635 he became a gentleman Commoner at Christ Church, Oxford, where he remained for three years reading with great diligence. On the sudden death of his father he left before taking his degree.

Public Life.

Left thus early in life his own master, with a large fortune, he did not give himself up to dissipation and amusement as many young men in his position would have done, but entered the Inner Temple and read most industriously for the Bar, determined to distinguish himself in this profession as had so many of his family. He is said to have followed the maxim of his uncle, Sir Henry Finch, that "a Law Student should read all the morning and talk all the afternoon."²

¹ "From the Parchments of my Lady Heneage."

² Roger North makes Heneage Finch himself the author of this saying.

Called to the Bar.

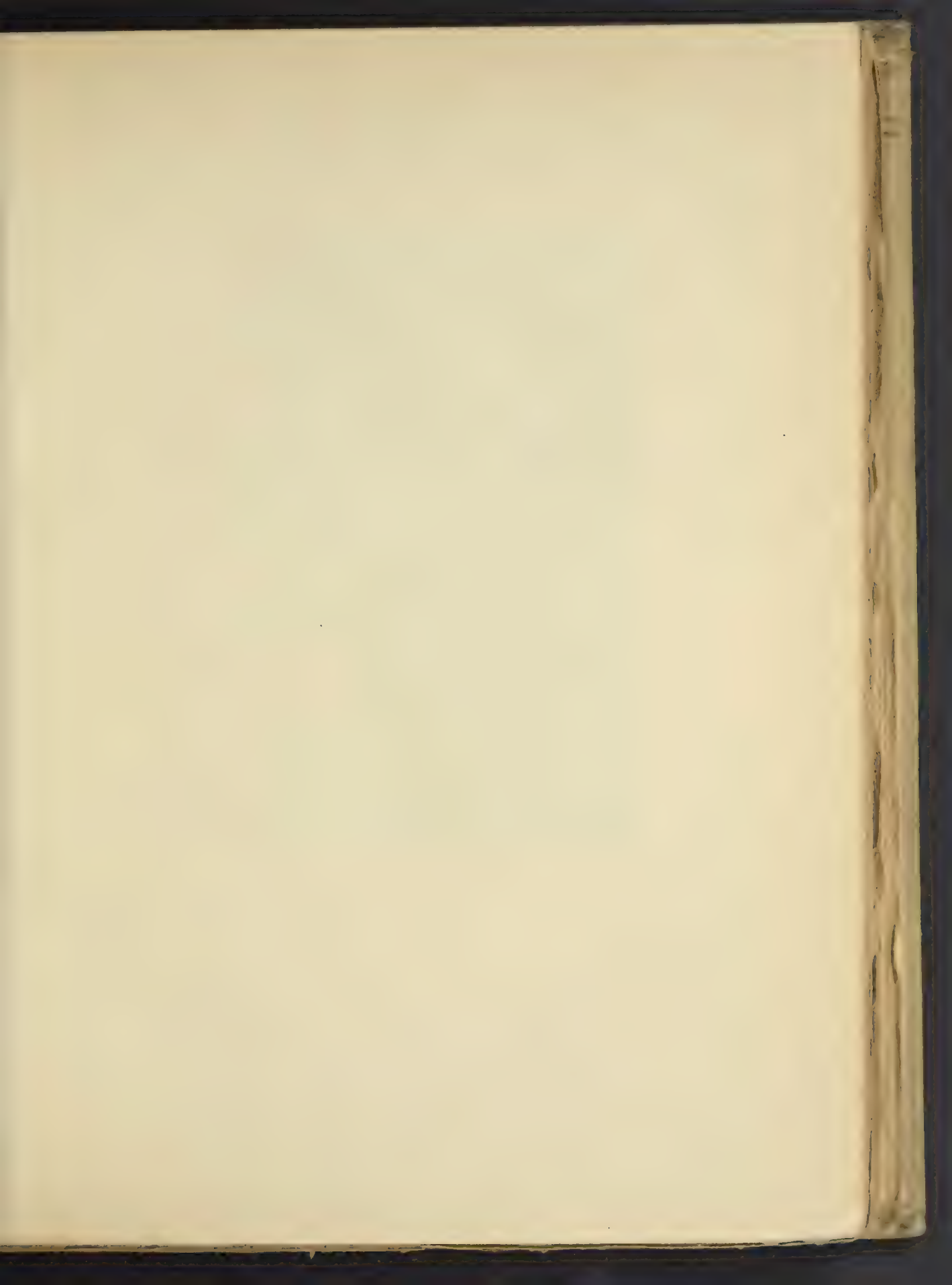
January 30th, 1645, he was called to the Bar. For the next sixteen years nothing is known of him; it is possible that being an ardent Loyalist he would not take employment under the Commonwealth, but it seems more probable he was not offered any. He was too wise, however, to mix himself up in the numerous plots of the time, and on the flight of his cousin, Sir John Finch, the Lord Keeper (Lord Finch of Fordwick), he neither shared his exile nor defended his cause.

Enters Parliament.

At the Restoration he was returned for the City of Canterbury and for the Borough of St. Michaels in Cornwall.

Made Solicitor General.

In 1666 he became Solicitor General, which is said to have caused considerable disappointment among the cavalier lawyers, who felt they had done more for the Royal Cause. But they could not with any justice oppose or blame the appointment, as considering his excellent character, his legal eminence and great learning, no one was more fitted for the post. The King further showed his favour by creating him a Knight and Baronet. During this time he busied himself much with politics, in which he does not seem to have shewn the same wisdom as he did in legal matters. On the release of Milton, when a suggestion was put before the House for the refunding of the money which the unfortunate poet had been forced to pay to the prison Sergeant, "Mr. Solicitor Finch" vehemently opposed it saying, "This Mr.





Heneage Finch
Finch. G.

HENEAGE FINCH, LORD CHANCELLOR, FIRST EARL OF NOTTINGHAM.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY Sir G. Kneller, 1680.

Milton has been Latin Secretary to Cromwell, and instead of paying £150 well deserved hanging."

Chosen Autumn Reader.

In 1661 he was chosen Autumn Reader of the Inner Temple, and is said to "have performed his duties with an ability and splendour never surpassed." He chose for the subject of his lectures, "The payment and recovery of debts of the Crown," in treating of which he showed deep learning. The feasting lasted six days, and on the final day the King and Queen honoured the Reader with their presence. In 1661 Heneage Finch represented the University of Oxford in Parliament. At the Bar his reputation for eloquence was such that he was usually styled the English Roscius and the English Cicero. Evelyn calls him the "smooth-tongued Solicitor," and writes thus in his Diary:—"Oct., 1664. At the Council I heard Mr. Solicitor Finch plead most eloquently for the Merchants trading to the Canaries, praying for a new Charter." And Pepys writes respecting the hearing of an Appeal at the Bar of the House of Lords:—"The cause was managed for my Lord Privy Seal by Finch, the Solicitor General, but I do really think that he is a man of as great eloquence as ever I heard or ever hope to hear all my life. May 3rd, 1664." Again he writes:—"21. To Whitehall and so bye and bye to the Council Chambers and heard a remarkable cause pleaded between the Farmers of the Excise of Wilts in complaint against the Justices of Peace of Salisbury and Sir Heneage Finch was for the former: but Lord! to see how he did with his admirable eloquence order the matter is not to be conceived almost: so pleasant a thing it is to hear him plead!"

Extract from a Letter of Heneage Finch to his Son at Florence.

August 17-27, 1666. He writes: "I have been forced to turn away my Chief Clerk, John Hannis, for a wretched Knavery in falsifying the King's evidence and interlining a counterpart of a lease which the . . . of Excise were to seal to the Kings, contrary to the originall pattent which I drew and to which the Great Seal was affixt, so now I am rid of a Drunken Crew and will take more care of my next choice. I have been three times at Mr. Lillys to sitt for my picture by My Lord Chancellor's command. I play at Bowles, and ride abroad and read Ballads. I can look with pleasure upon my gray hairs so long as I hear well and hopefully of you, whom I pray God to bless with his most Holy benedictions, and am ever,

"Your Truly loving Father,

"HENEAGE FINCH."

Again he writes Dec. 7-17. "A Frigalat is immediately gone away to the Barbadoes to settle affairs there, and to supply ye Magazines since ye disaster wch befel My Lord Willoughby. I am going to build myself new Lodgings in ye Temple wch. will lose mee near £1,000 when they are finished, I shall Know my losses by ye City fire."

Becomes Attorney General.

1670. On the death of Sir Jeffrey Palmer, Sir Heneage was made Attorney General, the duties of which he had long performed. In 1672 Shaftesbury became Lord Chancellor, which is said to have been a great blow to Finch, who had hoped for that honour, and whose qualifications were infinitely superior to Shaftesbury's, who

was no lawyer.³ In spite of this, Sir Heneage was a keen supporter of the latter and zealously upheld the power of the King, in fact he would appear occasionally somewhat of a time-server, for he was ambitious of the Great Seal.

Extracts of the Orders of the Council showing the work Sir Heneage had to do as Attorney General (From the MSS. at Burley).

"The 22nd of June, 1670, at the Court of Whitehall present :—

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Lord Keeper | Earle of Lauderdale |
| Duke of Ormonde | Earle of Tweeddale |
| Earle of Ogle | Earle of Carbery |
| Lord Chamberlain | Lord Bishop of London |
| Earle of Bridgewater | Lord Hollis |
| Earle of Anglesay | Lord Ashley |
| Earle of Craven | Mr. Secretary Trevor |

Sir John Duncombe.

"Upon Reading this day at the Board the humble petition of the Fishermen of Rochester, Strood and Chatham in the County of Kent Complayning that notwithstanding a Quo. warrants brought by his Ma^{tie's} late Attorney Generall against Mr. Herbert's patent, and an order of this Board, that untill a tryall at law upon the Quo. warrants should be determined the petrs. should be permitted their Fishing and Dredging for oyster in the waters called Last Grounds in or neare the hundred of Milton in the said County; Mr. Herbert having put in a Petition whereby he claymed the sole ffishing within the

³ See "Lives of the Lord Chancellors," by Lord Campbell.

said places, Mr. Herbert meanwhile hath brought divers actions of Trespasse against these men, which he intends to bring to Tryall at the next assizes to be holden for the County of Kent, and praying reliefe therein."

A true copy of this "peticon" was to be given to the said Mr. Herbert, and he was required to return his answer within eight days. And in the meantime the Petrs, were to attend Sir Heneage Finch, Knt. and Bart. his Maties. Attorney Generall with their papers of evidence, to the end he may be better enabled to give his Matie and this Board a full account of the whole matter.

At the Court of Whitehall, 10th of May, 1671.

Present: the Kings most excellent Ma^{tie}.

"His Ma^{tie} having been informed that Divers Masters and owners of Shippes do frequently putt to sea singly, or a few in number, not waiting for convoys which are appointed for their guard and safety, whereby such shippes do oftentimes become a prey to the Turks and Moores, who by such advantages are encouraged to hold out and not to yield to peice upon reasonable termes. For preventing whereof," &c. "His Ma^{tie} was graciously pleased in Council to order," &c. . . . "That Sir Heneage Finch, Knt. his Ma^{ties} Attorney General do forthwith prepare and present to his Ma^{tie} in Council the draught of a prohibiting shippes whatsoever to go before the convoy. If any of these persons were to disobey this command 'and be taken captive' they were to have no 'charitable contributions' collected for the redemption of captives, &c.

(Signed)

"E. J. W. WALKER."

In 1673 Sir Heneage Finch is ordered by the Council—
“To review and peruse the Proclamation of the 9th of April
in the 13th yeare of His Ma^{tie}s reign, and also the pro-
clamation of the 30th of May in the 16th yeare of his reigne.
Commanding all Masters of Shippes, Pillotts, Mariners,
Steamers Shippwrights, and other seafaring men being His
Ma^{tie}s naturall borne subjects, who were then in the service
of Fforeign Prince or state, or do serve in any fforeign
shipp or vessels, that they further returne to their native
Countryes and Lawfull vocations; and from thenceforth not
betake themselves to any fforeign service without licence,”
&c., “and that he forthwith prepare a new proclamation to
the like affect and present the same unto the Board.

“E. J. W. WALKER.”

Essex House ye 12th of December, 1671.

Present: The Lord Keeper, Lord Chief Justice of Ye
King's Bench, Lord Chief Justice of ye Common Pleas.

“It was this day ordered by their Ldspps in pursuance
of the statutes for the prizing of wines, that canary wines,
allegants and Muscadells be sold in grosse at thirty-six
pounds the pipe or butt, and Twelve Pence the Pint by
Retayle, and the Rhenish Wines be sold at ten pounds the
tunne, and eighteenpence the quart by Retayle,” &c.
“Whereof ye Clerke of ye Crowne is to take notice and
see the summe proclaimed the next terme in Chancery
according to the statute and their Ldspps. did further order
that His Ma^{ty}s Attorney Genll. do prepare a proclamation
declaring the price of wine, &c.

“E. W. WALKER.”

Another decree of the council is that his "Ma^{tie's} Attorney General prepare a proclamation forbidding any person to presume to print any Booke whatsoever without a lycence be printed and placed before the booke." Mr. Attorney Gen. was also "to exhibit an information in the King's Bench against Dr. Lewis de Moulin for writing a treasonable Seditious Booke and against Thomas Milton for printing it." A curious petition among the MSS. is one from several of the inhabitants of the County of Devon they having been summoned in the County Assizes for "preaching in conventicles or not going to church." This indictment was contrary to the law and His Ma^{tie's} Gracious Declaration, &c.

These few extracts suffice to show the curious affairs the Attorney General had to settle, and the extreme limit of the liberty of the subject.

Receives the Great Seal.

Nov. 9th, 1673, his ambitious hopes were rewarded and he received the Great Seal. The following is the official register of the event.

"Sir Heneage Finch, Knight and Bart. The King's Ma^{ty's} Attorney General, received the Great Seale of England as Lord Keeper from His Majesty at Whitehall, on Sunday in the evening, being the 9th of November, 1673, in the 25th year of his said Majesty's reigne. The King sent for it the same day from the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Chancellor, by Mr. Secretary Coventry."

His first act as Lord Keeper was to seal a pardon to his predecessor. Nov. 11th, he had a grand procession from his house in Queens Street to Westminster Hall, attended

by many noblemen, the judges, &c. Great expectations were raised concerning his inaugural address, which however, he refrained from delivering. The custom being to praise your predecessor and profess your willingness to follow his example. The following is his own account of the proceedings.

Note from the MSS. Cases of Finch.⁴

"At six at night I received the Great Seal from his Majesty at Whitehall and was made C. S. 10th. I recipe'd my Lord Shaftesbury's patent, which came to me from the Privy Seal. It was reported that his Lordship kept the bill signed by him above a year and a half for it was signed before he was Chancellor, as is said, and never meant to send it to the Seals till there was great necessity and so had covered all his misdemeaners as Chancellor. But this is a malicious report to his prejudice and mine, as if he had been false and I too easy in the matter; for in truth the pardon did extend to the 6th of November, which could not possibly be by virtue of an old warrant; but the Chancellor, foreseeing his fall, obtained a warrant for a new pardon, signed by Mr. Secretary Coventry, and Mr. Solicitor North, passed it on Saturday the 8th of November, and his Lordship intended to have it sealed as Chancellor, for the Privy Seal was directed to him by that name; but it was razed in the King's presence, and directed to me by name, with a Nuper Cancellarius interlined where it mentioned him. Also I sealed a commission to the Judges and the Master of the Rolls to hear causes, for by the change of the C. or C S. the commission fayles. 11th. I took my seat and was

⁴ See "Lord Campbell's Lives of the Lord Chancellors."

sworn in Chancery ; but I made no speech as some of my predecessors have done, upon the like occasion."

Created Lord Finch of Daventry and Lord Chancellor.

The next year he reached the summit of his profession and attained the Chancellorship. The following is his account from his MSS. "Sunday morning, the King going to Chappell declared me Lord Chancellor, whereupon I kist his hand, and presently had the compliments of all the Court and not long after from all the ambassadors and Foreign Ministers."

Crown off. Min. 54.

"The Right Honble. Heneage Lord Finch, Baron of Daventry took the oath of Lord Chancellor of England in the Court of Chancery, on Monday the 24th of January, in the 27th year of His Ma^{ty}'s reign, being the first of Hilery Terme : the book being held to him by Sir Harbottle Grimston, Mstr. of the Rolls, and the oath read by Mr. Boocher, Clerk of the Crown, His Ma^{ty} having been pleased on the 19th day of December before to take the Seale into his own hands, and to deliver it to him again by the stile of Lord Chancellor."

Life as Lord Chancellor.

For nine years he held the Great Seal and presided over the Court of Chancery, during the whole of which time says Lord Campbell "he devoted himself with indefatigable labour and with brilliant success to the discharge of his Judicial duties." As a judge his conduct seems to have been

unimpeachable, not even his most bitter enemies could find a flaw in his discharge of judicial business. Burnet in his History gives the following description of his character—
“He was a man of Probity and understood the law, but his much admired eloquence was laboured and affected; and he had no knowledge of Foreign affairs, though he would be always talking of them: He thought himself obliged to justify the Court in the debates in the House of Lords, but he did it rather like a pleader than a senator: He was an incorrupt judge, and would resist the strongest applications made to him in his court, even by the King, though he could no where else: He filled those livings that were in his gift with men of worth, and obliged them all to residence.”
Writing to his chaplain Dr. Sharp, afterwards Archbishop of York, he expresses his great wish to dispose well of the Church preferment, &c., in his gift as Chancellor. “The Greatest difficulty I apprehend in my office is the patronage of ecclesiastical preferments. God is my witness that I would not knowingly prefer an unworthy person; but as my course of life has lain another way, I cannot think myself so good a judge of the merits of such suitors as you are. I therefore charge it upon your conscience as you will answer it to Almighty God, that upon every such occasion you make the best enquiry and give me the best advice you can, that I may never bestow any favour upon an undeserving man; which if you neglect to do, the guilt will be entirely yours and I shall save my soul.”

Burnet in his preface to his History of the Reformation bestows unstinted praise upon him, in the following words: “The Right honble. the Lord Finch now Lord High Chancellor of England whose great parts and greater virtues are so conspicuous that it were a high presumption in me to

say anything in his commendation, being in nothing more eminent than in his care and zeal for the church." He further adds that the chancellor "bore a large share" of the expense in the publication of his history and that he read it in MSS. and made some corrections.

In 1681, as a further reward for his services to the crown, he was created Earl of Nottingham.

Life as a Statesman.

His character as a Statesman is not given that unqualified praise which his contemporaries bestowed on his merits as a judge. He did not, it is true, like Shaftesbury originate bad measures, but he strenuously and without scruple supported whatever measure, whether good or bad, the various ministers of the King introduced. His speeches in parliament, instead of being brilliant specimens of oratory, were dreary and prosaic. He would make florid speeches in the praise of the King, and on one occasion when the parliament, or rather its members, had been extremely fractious and tiresome, he speaks of it as "the best Parliament that ever King or Kingdom met with." It is curious that such a conscientious Judge should have proved so time-serving a Statesman.

His Quarrels with Shaftesbury.

A deep hatred existed between the Chancellor and the Ex-chancellor. In public they always strove to get the better of one another. History relates that on one occasion Shaftesbury had the felicity of hearing his rival publicly snubbed by the King. Nottingham's revenge was however more complete, for he saw his enemy marched off to the



For my Lord
Keeper.



Windsore 8 Aug.

My D^r Keeper, I desire that you would
dispatch the patent for the Duke of
Richmond as soon as may be, I am

Your affectionate friend

Charles R

Tower, and probably no part of his life was so happy or peaceful as when for fifteen years his enemy remained a prisoner. Nottingham was involved in a rather shady act of the King's in connection with the pardon of Danby after his impeachment. The King sent for his Chancellor to affix the seal to the pardon, this Nottingham declined to do, saying it was illegal. Thereupon the King took the seal from him and affixed it to the pardon with his own hand, handing the Seal back to Nottingham with these words: "Take it my Lord I know not where to bestow it better." The Commons were very angry when the pardon was pleaded at the bar, and formed a committee to enquire into the matter. They also came to the Lord Chancellor for information, and he with great cleverness contrived to evade their questioning and completely hide his own share in the matter. The Commons thereupon sent up an address to the King complaining of the illegality of these proceedings. During the excitement which followed, Shaftesbury vowed he would have Nottingham's head, but to his own astonishment found himself turned out of office. From that time they no longer sought to conceal their hatred of each other.

The Trial of Lord Strafford.

There is, unfortunately, one act in the life of the Chancellor which must ever leave a stain upon his character; and that is his share in the trial and execution of Strafford. "He is said to have shown in this case," says Lord Campbell, "either great fanaticism or rascality." Evelyn gives a description of the Trial in his Diary and, says the Chancellor, "the Lord Steward," as he calls him, "passed the sentence with great solemnity and dreadful gravity."

The speech is too long to be repeated in whole ; a few extracts will suffice. Burnet declares this speech to have been one of the finest ever made by Nottingham.

Extracts from the Speech.

"My Lord Strafford, my part which remains is a very sad one, for I never gave sentence upon any man, and am extremely sorry that I must begin with your Lordship. My Lord, as the plot general is most manifest, so your Lordship's part in it hath been too plain," etc. . . .
"The judgment of the law is, and this Court doth award that, you go to the place from whence you came, from thence you must be drawn upon an hurdle to the place of execution ; when you come there you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you are dead, for you must be cut down alive."

For this speech he received the thanks of the House of Lords and was desired to print it. Nottingham was no doubt aware that Strafford was innocent, and he should have sought to procure his pardon, and asserted his innocence. It is most probable that had he acted in the true spirit of justice, he would have been requested to relinquish the Great Seal. Few men, it is to be feared, are wholly disinterested. His conduct in regard to his enemy Shaftesbury cannot be excused either, for he kept him in prison many months, it is said, illegally refusing to give him liberty or a "justice trial." He suffered greatly from gout, and was often unable to attend Parliament in consequence ; the public attributed this to the fear of meeting his rival.

The following is the verse of a song on the subject :—

"Ask me no more why little Finch
From Parliament began to winch;
Since such as dare to hawk at Kings,
With ease can clip a Finch's wings."

His Care of the Great Seal.

It is said that he always took the Great Seal to bed with him. Wood says, "Nov. 7th, 1677: About one in the morning, the Lord Chancellor Finch his mace was stole out of his House in Queen Street. The Seal laid under his pillow, so the thief missed. The famous thief that did it was Thomas Sadler, soon after taken and hanged for it at Tyburn!"

Various Descriptions of the Chancellor.

"His Ldpp. was justly esteemed the great oracle of the law in his time, and so perfect a master in the art of speaking that he passed for the English Cicero. Yet his great understanding, his eloquent tongue, his titles of honour, did not give his name so lasting a lustre as that piety and virtue wherewith he adorned his high station, which is but too often starved in so rich a soil, and thriveth best in private life."—Author of Bpp. Bull.

Prof. Story says: "With Lord Nottingham a new era commenced. He was a person of eminent abilities and most incorruptible integrity. He possessed a fine genius and great liberality of views and a thorough comprehension of the true principles of equity, so that he was enabled to expand the remedial justice of the Court far beyond the aims of his predecessors. He built up a system which served as a model for succeeding judges

to the Court; and hence he has been emphatically called THE FATHER OF EQUITY."

Philip, Duke of Wharton, becomes quite florid on the subject. "His oratory was manly, just and strong. I have heard Mr. Locke, in his discourse, say that in his opinion, in some of his Idpp's speeches the language was the correctest and his composition the most complete he ever met with in the English tongue. His tables were not only handsome but magnificent and suitable to his quality and dignity. There may have been persons on the Bench of more extensive knowledge and greater capacities, but as to the duty and faithful discharge of his office, his Lordship never had a superior, and I am afraid there will be but few equals; his morals were as chaste as his writings; and they who pretended to criticise the one could never find the least fault with the other. A good name he thought the most valuable thing in life, and that on which virtue and honour depended." He further continues, that—"to figure this great and estimable man aright, I would set him on his throne with a ray of glory about his head, his ermine without spot or blemish, his balance in his right hand, mercy on his left, splendour and grandeur at his feet, and his tongue dispensing truth, goodness, virtue and justice to mankind. Thus accomplished and thus adorned, he ended his days in the highest station, full of honour, glory and riches, to the great grief and concern of his King and country. His entrance upon the stage of business was with great applause, and what is very rare, his going off was greater. Doubtless the memory of this great man will be preserved with the blessings and praise of posterity."

Macaulay in his history bestows unstinted praise on him, and says: "In Westminster Hall he is still mentioned with

respect as the man who first educed out of chaos anciently called by the name of equity, a new system of jurisprudence, as regular and complete as is administered by the Judges of the common law."

Burnet in his snappy way describes him as "ill-bred and haughty."

These descriptions may well end with the extract from Dryden's Absalom and Achitophel, in which he figures as Amri :—

" Our list of nobles next let Amri grace
Whose merits claimed Abethdin's high place ;
Who with a loyalty that did excel,
Brought all the endowments of Achitophel.
Sincere was Amri and not only knew
But Israel's functions with practice drew,
Our laws that did a boundless ocean seem,
Were costed all and fathomed all by him.
No Rabbi speaks like him their mystic sense,
So just and with such charms of eloquence :
To whom the double blessing does belong,
With Moses' inspiration, Aaron's tongue."

In the public life of the Chancellor it has been endeavoured, as far as possible, to give a just and true portrait. As there are no letters of his at Burley relating to his public life, and his law MSS. are in Latin, it was necessary to read up in history all that is to be found about him. The fairest account of him seemed to be "The Lives of the Chancellors," by Lord Campbell. Like all great men he was not universally liked, and made at times mistakes. It is however difficult for us to judge fairly of his actions, for we cannot tell the difficulties of the situation, nor the spirit in which he acted. His public life might well conclude with the words of Shakespear :—

"I have done the State some service and they know it,
No more of that, I pray you in your letters.
When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am, nothing extenuate,
Nor set down ought in malice."

Private Life.

There is but scanty information of his private life ; no letters exist from either of his parents, so his conduct as a son cannot be related. Nor can we judge of his qualities as a husband, for his letters to his wife are not preserved. There is however, a short notice of his marriage—

"On Thursday, the 30th of July, 1646, my Cosen Mr. Heneage Finch, son and heir of Sir Heneage Finch, Recorder of London, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, eldest daughter to Mr. Daniel Harvey of London, by Doctor Holdsworth at a little church in London Wall between Bishop's Gate and Mooregate, but the wedding was kept at Carlisle House in Lambeth being her father Mr. Harvey's House. By her he had his eldest son born the 2nd of July, 1647, being Friday about a quarter of an hour after 8 o'clock in the morning or somewhat more which was christened by one Mr. Barnard on Thursday following, being the 8th day of the said month of July and called Daniel. His Godfathers were my Uncle Frances Finch and Daniel Harvey his Grandfather, and Godmother my cosen Heneage Finch, his Mother in Law the Lady Finch his Father's second wife.

"This is a true copy of a writing now in my hands."

From this somewhat mixed account we gather the date of his marriage and the birth of his eldest son. His wife was the niece of Dr. Harvey who discovered the circulation

of the blood, she is thought by some to have inherited her uncle's money. Lady Finch died March 16th, 1673. She left seven sons and four daughters, and is buried in the vault at Ravenstone in Bucks. On the south side of the monument erected to her husband by their son, is the following reference to her :—

“He married Elizabeth Harvey, who for her great virtue and conjugal affection, her pious and tender care of her children was most deserved and deservedly loved by him. And for her obliging generous and humble behaviour justly esteemed by all after the faithful discharge of the duties of an excellent wife for 30 years, it pleased God to take her to Him to His mercies, seven years before his death, and she is also here deposited.”

There is one letter at Burley from her to her eldest son, but as it concerns his affairs it is given in the account of his life.

Lord Nottingham in his private life seems to have been a most sincerely religious man, also an excellent and loving parent. This we gather from his letters to his son Daniel when the latter was at Oxford and travelling on the Continent ; these letters like that of Lady Finch are incorporated in the life of their son.

His high Moral Character.

In his private life the Chancellor was most strictly moral : this was particularly praiseworthy considering the times in which he lived when it was considered that to follow the manners of the Court was the best way to curry favour with the Sovereign. He lived in a very splendid style, we read, in his villa at Kensington, and was so rich that after he

had held the Great Seal for a few years he gave back to the King the allowance given him for his expenses in entertaining, and on his retirement from office he neither asked for a pension nor demanded a grant of land. One cannot but admire this disinterestedness, whatever his other faults may have been he certainly was not avaricious.

He suffered greatly from gout and rheumatism, and was curiously enough a believer in astrology for the curing of illness. In the latter years of his life he suffered greatly from these ailments. Roger North says "I have known him sit to hear petitions in great pain, and say that his servants had let him out, though he was fitter for his chamber."

His Charities.

One of his benevolent acts was to purchase a Manor, which he gave to the vicar and his descendants for ever. This house was for twelve poor men and women, who were to have new clothes annually and to receive the sum of three and sixpence a week.⁵ He also gave ten pounds a year towards beautifying the church. (Probably the church at Ravenstone.)

His Death.

A year after the death of his rival, Shaftesbury, he expired at his house in Queens Street, December 18th, 1682, at the age of sixty-one, and is buried in the vault at Ravenstone. A fine monument is erected to him (said

⁵ These Almshouses are still in existence at Ravenstone, in Bucks. The six old men and women continued to receive this sum of money, and get one shilling extra instead of cloaks.



1647 (S. 11)

Elizabeth Finch

LADY FINCH, WIFE OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR, FIRST EARL OF NOTTINGHAM,
DAUGHTER OF MR. DANIEL HARVEY.

FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL BY *Sir Peter Lely*.

to be by Cibber); it represents him in his robes as Chancellor, under a canopy supported at each corner by pillars. On the south side of the monument is a long Latin inscription describing his learning, virtue and honours.

Extract from a Letter of Condolence from one Woodroffe to Essex, Wife of Daniel, second Lord Nottingham.

"MADAM,

"I could not hear the sad news of my Lord Chancellor's death without very great sorrow, it being a great losse not only to your noble family, but to the whole Kingdome; God hath taken him out of a troublesome world, and as you have reason to hope to a place of Eternal rest where is joy without sorrow and life without death. I hope your Ladyship will receive this heavy stroke with becoming patience, and humble submission to the divine will, etc.

"I beseech God to support and comfort your Ladyshippe in this affliction, and to preserve you long to serve and honour him here, and to crowne you with immortal glory hereafter.

"I am my Lady Nottingham's most Humble
and obliged Servant,

"*Jan. 2.*"

(Unsigned.)

Sons of the Chancellor.

Of the Lord Chancellor's five sons, the eldest is of course the most important, but as his life and letters take up considerable space, a slight sketch is first given of his brothers.

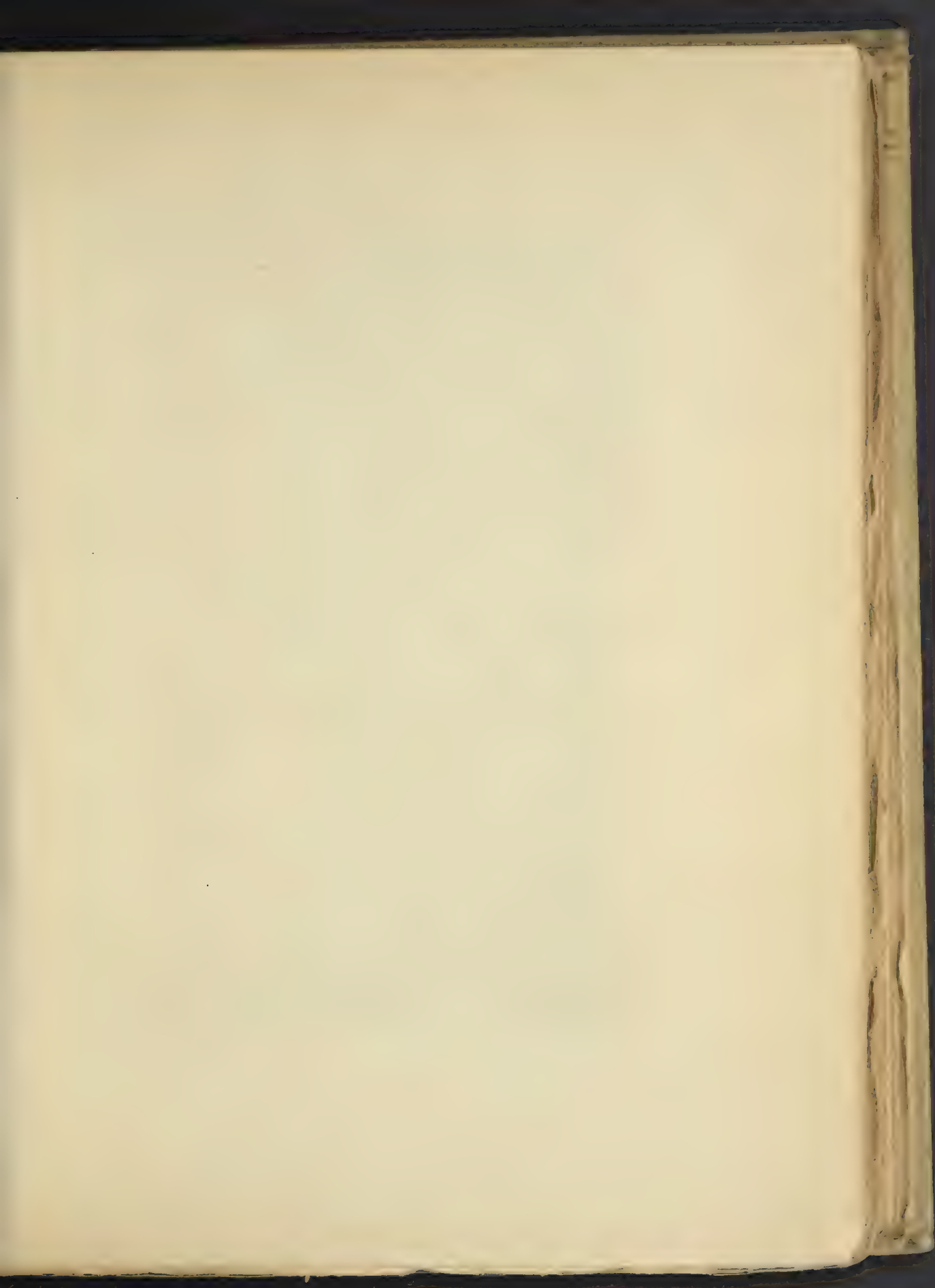
Heneage, the second son, was brought up a lawyer;

he is said to "have almost outrivalled his father in the brilliancy of his professional career." Such was his eloquence that he was called the "silver-tongued Finch." In 1670 he became Solicitor General, but was removed from this post soon after the accession of James II., for opposing some measures of the Court. In 1678 he was member of the University of Oxford, and for Guildford in 1685. In 1712 he was created Lord Guernsey, and, two years later, Earl of Aylesford, becoming the head of that branch of the family. There is a picture of him and his wife at Burley, also some of his letters, but they are not of sufficient interest to be given.

Charles, third son, was educated at All Souls, Oxford; he was made a Fellow of that college, and created LL.D. He died in 1701, and is buried at Ravenstone. His picture at Burley represents a stout and most unattractive man, but it is a singularly bad painting.

Edward, fourth son, was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, of which he subsequently became Fellow. Mr. Ralph Cudworth, Master of that College, writes to his uncle, Sir John Finch (who had recently given an endowment to the College): "Our joy is very much increased by your being pleased to nominate, for our first Fellow, your nephew, a person upon several accounts extremely acceptable to ye whole society of wch, had it laid in their power, they had before this given an effectual Proove."

October 13th. Ch. Coll., Cam., 1684. He writes again, this time to the Chancellor. "I do acknowledge that I was instrumental for the bringing in of Mr. Edward Ffinch to be Fellow. I wish heartily Mr. Edward Ffinch could still continue a member of ye Society in a way suitable to the statutes, but since his genius is so reluctant, if he be

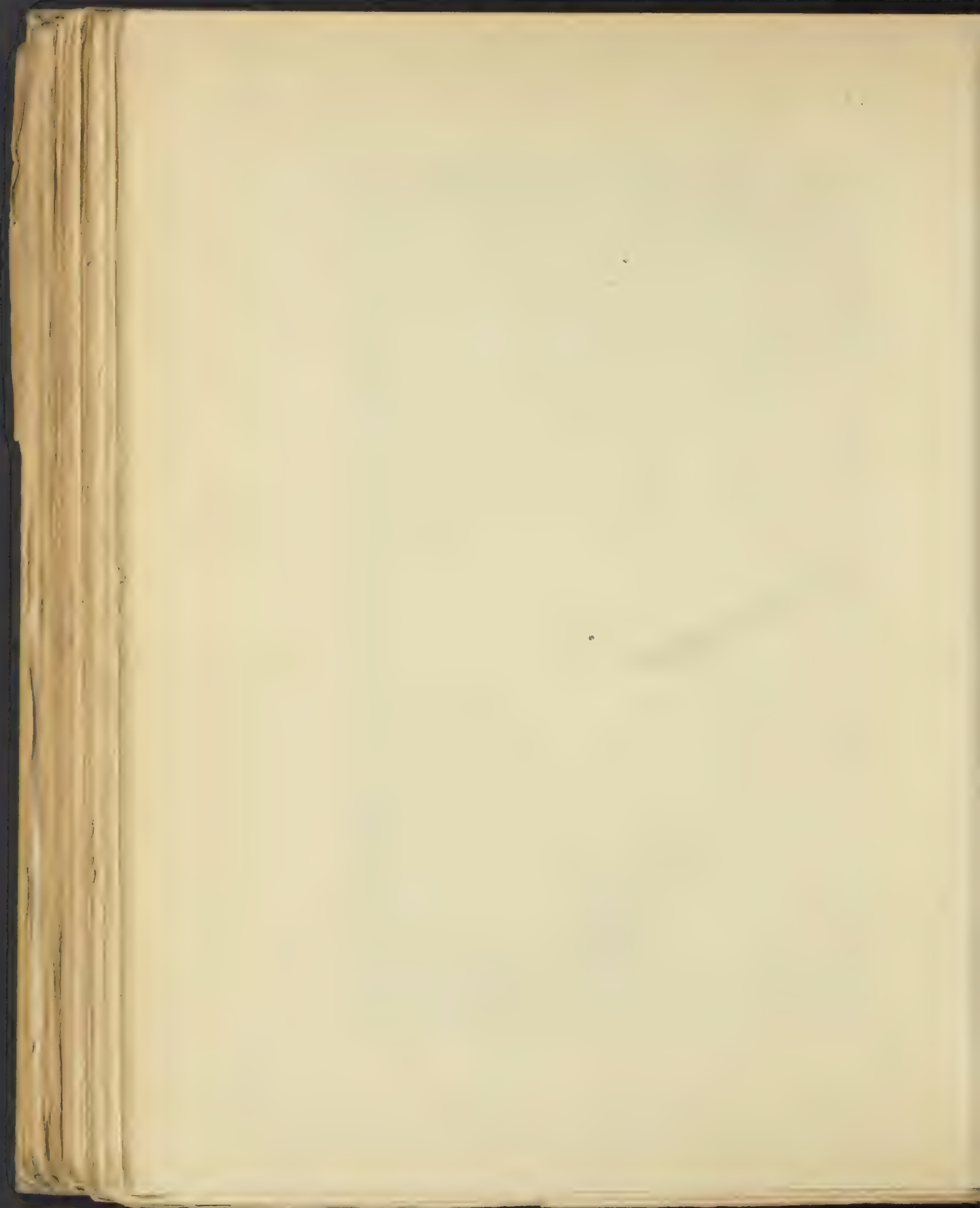




MONUMENT OF HENEAGE FINCH, LORD CHANCELLOR AND FIRST EARL
OF NOTTINGHAM, IN RAVENSTONE CHURCH, BUCKS.



MONUMENT OF HENEAGE FINCH, LORD CHANCELLOR AND FIRST EARL OF NOTTINGHAM.
IN RAVENSTON CHURCH, BUCKS.



resolved to break off from us, I desire his place may not be vacated otherwise than by his own voluntary Resignation. He is a gentlemen of Excellent Parts and will do any Way that he takes to."

Testimonial.

"We whose names are underwritten doe certify that Mr. Edward Ffinch son to the Right Honble Heneage, Lord Finch, Lord High Chancellor, hath carried himselfe in Christ College since he was a member thereof soberley and studiously and for his time hath made a considerable progress in learning, and we look upon him as a person of very great hopes and well deserving all possible encouragement.

"RALPH CUDWORTH, D.D.

"Master of Christ Coll., Camb.

"ALLEN MOORE, D.D.

"THO. LOVATT TALOR."

On leaving Oxford it is difficult to make out what he did. From his letters it would almost appear he was in parliament, or had at any rate something to do with politics. Eventually, he seems to have entered the Church, and became Rector of Wigan, in Yorkshire. In his picture at Burley he is represented in his gown, and is a very nice-looking man, by far the handsomest of his family, having escaped their extremely dark complexions. His health was evidently most delicate, which made him irritable, for he writes crossly to his eldest brother, who evidently wished him to come up for the session. "1693.—'Tis with reluctance I endure to think of ever engaging in Politicks, or so much as once troubling my head with these matters

any more." He continues that he "only owes his crazy health to the fresh air, gentle exercise, and freedom from anxiety and care."

In another letter he says he hears his brother has "met with a report that he has left the service in anger," this he declares to be a slander, adding that he wishes for an appointment that he may end his days in the country. "My quarrell," he continues "was to the office only, where at the price of my lungs and right arm, I have purchased the reputation of recklessness, and you by working like a post horse have gained the censure of infidelity. I hate the profession but more where I can't but think it needless. But be assured I never was nor will be unfaithfull so I never can be ungratefull.

"Who am your Ldsp's Most affectionate and Humble Servant,

"EDWARD FINCH."⁶

Edward became at some time Prebend of York. He married Mary, daughter of — Stanley, Esq. He died at York, 1737.

Henry, 6th son was likewise educated at Christ's College, Cambridge. Mr. Ralphe Cudworth, his master, writes kindly to his father in 1684 concerning him. "Mr. Harry seems to be fixed; I verily believe is resolved, to accommodate himself to that profession wch. he designs, both by his diligence in study, and by his good conversation and that he will no lesse approve himselfe upon account of learning and virtue." The profession "which he designed" for himself was the Church, in which he subsequently rose

⁶ It would seem that he had entered the Army, as he talks of the service, &c., or possibly he refers to a duel and may have been in the Diplomatic Service.

to be Dean of York. He was from all accounts a virtuous man ; in his picture he is stolid and uninteresting looking.

In the accounts kept by Lord Nottingham's agent is the following "Mr. Dean of York £30. 1708, Mr. Dean of York £41. 6s. 6d." Lady Nottingham also mentions him in some of her letters. He died unmarried in 1728.

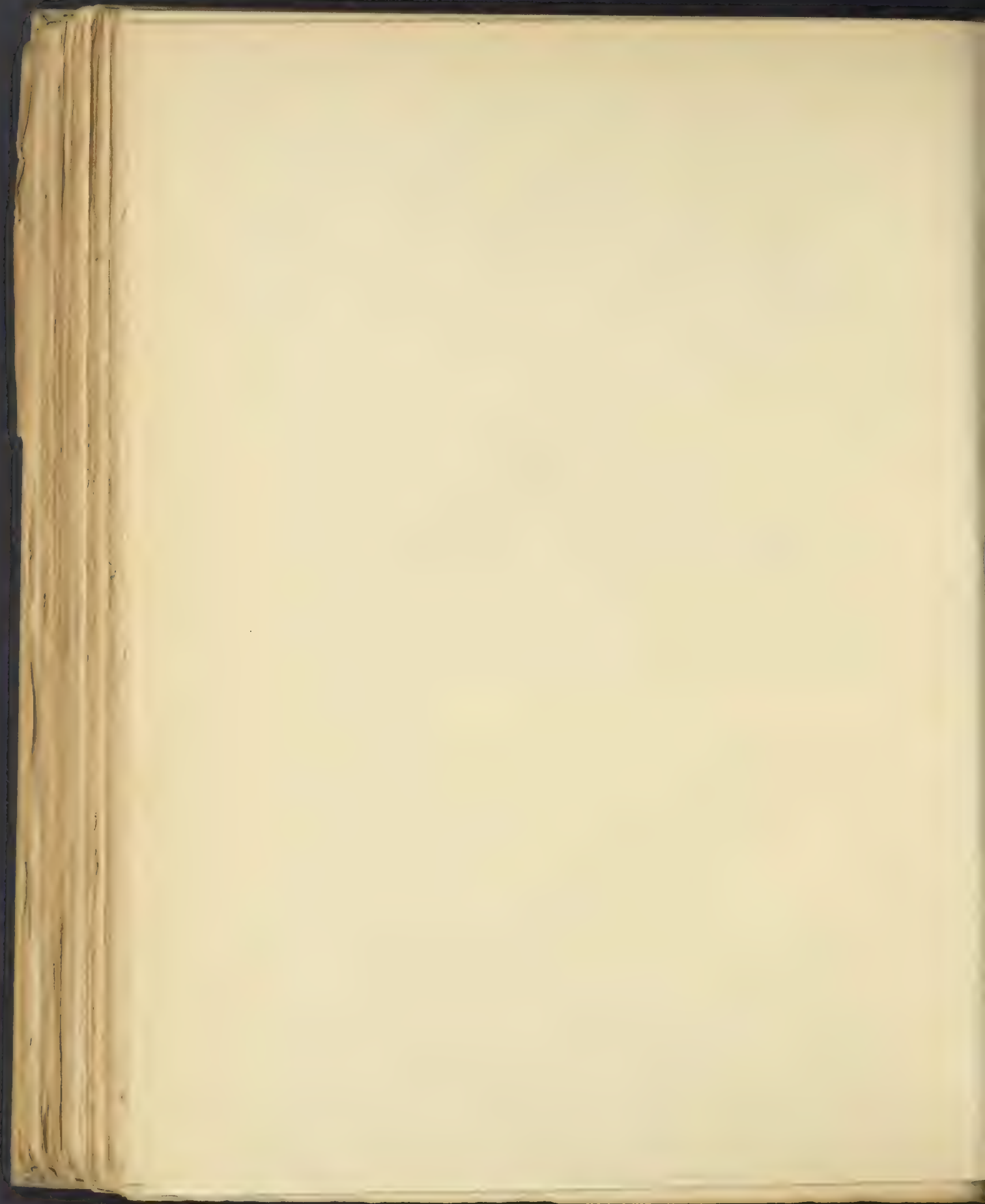
The four other sons died young, and the daughters are not of sufficient interest to be mentioned.





DANIEL FINCH,
SECOND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM AND
SEVENTH EARL OF WINCHELSEA
(ELDEST SON OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR).

"His honour and the greatness of his name shall be remembered."





DANIEL FINCH, SECOND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM
AND SEVENTH EARL OF WINCHELSEA (ELDEST
SON OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR).

Birth.

Daniel the eldest son, as has been aforesaid, "was born July 2nd, 1747, on a Friday, about a quarter of an hour after 8 o'clock in the morning." Of his childhood we have no accounts, it is probable he went to Oxford at a very early age, possibly about the age of fourteen or fifteen, the time when now-a-days a boy would go to Eton, or some other public school.

Life at Oxford.

While at Christ Church, Oxford, his father wrote him some charming letters full of the most excellent advice, of which the following are some specimens:—

Letters from the Chancellor to his Son whilst at Oxford.

"Friday, January 26th.

"SONNE,—The verses you sent me are as good philosophy as poetry and contain excellent Sense in very apt and significant expressions wch. are the true ingredients of every

right and commendable discourse. But this seems to me to be an incredible improvement of your parts in three months. I hope you will keep a copy as I do, for you have raised in me a quarterly expectation of the like Progress. I wish you may make it good, I would have an account of all your Public exercises, which I expect you shall always perform in your turn, nor will I admit of any excuse, for though others who are less disposed to study may take your forwardness in ill part, yet I presume nothing shall weigh with you more than the satisfaction of my desires. Be sure to be present at all disputations in the Hall to wch ye Fellow Commoners seldom came in my time, and study well the question beforehand for one Argument of your own choosing out of those books wch. write upon the question will be better managed by you than any argument wch. your Tutor can put into your head. In the last place I must advise you to that without wch. all your Study and your Life too, is to no purpose. That is a serious care to Serve God in your heart who hath delivered you from so many sicknesses bestowed so many Blessings on you, and blessed you all your life long before you knew what it was to seek Him. Above all things study to Value and blesse Him for His Spirituall mercies which will be a necessary meditation to prepare you for the Sacrament, and I hope you intend to receive with the next opportunity," &c., &c.

"So with my Prayer to God for His blessing upon you,

"I rest your Ever loving Father,

"HENEAGE FINCH."

"December 2nd, 1662.

"I shall be very glad to see you and your Tutor at Christmasse, and I must lett you know that if you have any occasion to employ Taylors or such like Artificers you will





Nottingham

DANIEL, SECOND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Sir G. Kneller*, DATED 1727.

See vol. 94/51

find yourselfe very much disappointed unlesse you come at least a week before Christmasse," &c. "Touching your Quartridge it is indifferent to me here whether I pay it into your own hands when you come to Town, or to such Person as he who gives you credit for it there shall desire by bill of exchange. Do that which is most suitable to your own occasions, etc. Your Brothers do eagerly expect you and your Mother prays for you as doth your

"Ever loving Father,

"HENEAGE FINCH."

"*March 17th, 1662.*

"You may discharge your Dancing master when you please, I think you did very ill to entertayne him at all in the mornings, it was never your Mother's meaning nor mine that you should lose an hour's Study for him, my chief care and desires for you are, that you may prove a knowing and virtuous man, that wch. ye Towne calls a fine gentleman being to my understanding rather a libel than a recommendation," etc. "Learning consists in the knowledge of things not of words else every schoolmaster would be as good as a Philosopher, labour therefore to improve yr. Judgment, not yr. phansey (fancy). Else you will quickly meet wiser men than yrselfe who never went further than English. In ye mean time I pray you Harken to yr. Tutor's directions and use the help of such good books as you have.

"Tuesday night."

"*Dec. 17th.*

"Preserve the Reputation you have gotten of a very serious man. Cherish that Vital Heate of Soule wch. ye Principals of true piety have inkindled, and while others take Religion only in their Discourse, do you avoyd all talking of it, and lett ye World see it in your Conversation. They

write hither from Paris that ye Spaniard hath seized upon Casel, wch. is entertained only as a fiction to amuse us."

"*Aug. 7th, 1662.*

"Dr. Bonewood at Norwood hath gotten a small token from mee for you, tis such as I had then about mee, a Piece of good cut Gold. There is a box with a silk Gown sent you, and the carriage payd."

"*Aug. 23rd, 1662. Saturday.*

"I charge ye to frequent ye publique prayers and Study to Reverence and defend as well as to obeyye the Church of England, you will give me but a sadd account of your time in the University if you return either factious or indifferent in ye point of Religion. Nothing can betray you to errors in Religion Sooner than the having too good an opinion of those who are not sound themselves. Bee sure you never trust your own Judgment in things of this nature nor submit to Arguments only because you have not Wit enough to answer them. Your uncle J. (Sir John Finch) and Dr. Bayns are still at Tunbridge Wells."

"*April 7th, 1663.*

"Loose not the Reputation which I am told you have Gayned of Diligence and sobriety."

"*Oct. 4th, 1662.*

"SONNE,

"It is very great satisfaction to mee that you have not been discouraged from persueing these Studys wch. I require of you by any unkindness of those who desire not to see any better example than themselves are willing to follow. It was my fortune there as it is yours now to meet with the same inconvenience and for the same Reasons. But you must look upon the University as the way to greater things and therefore however others devert themselves Bee sure

you keep on a constant regular motion and you shall quickly find yourself to get ground of your fellows."

From these remarks it is evident Daniel Finch was a hard reader, and was as much looked down upon as a man of that stamp would be now.

"Sept. 20th, 1662.

"Nothing can make mee more happy in this World but a prospect of some virtue and industry in you."

Unfortunately history does not relate to us the fruit of all this excellent advice, we do not even hear if he had a distinguished career there. It is possible that he contrived to cram a good deal of knowledge into his head if we may take his after life as an example. But he sounds notwithstanding a rather dreary youth with his reputation of a "very serious man."

Travels in Europe.

On leaving Oxford he was sent to travel in Europe, chiefly in Italy, going to Rome, where his uncle, Sir John Finch, was then studying medicine with his friend, Sir Thomas Baines. It was doubtless these months spent in Italy which inspired Lord Nottingham with the idea of building himself an Italian house like the great Italian palaces of Rome, Florence, &c. The Court of St. Peters at Rome must certainly have suggested the idea of colonnades. He purchased during his travels several fine Italian pictures and some cabinets,¹ which are in the house at the present day. The two pictures are "A Dead Christ" and "The Three Maries," by Carlo Marietti, which hang in one of the bed rooms.

¹ There were other cabinets and Italian furniture, but they were stored away in outhouses near the stables, and burnt at the time of the fire mentioned by Sir J. Evelyn in his Diary.

The Chancellor continues to write letters of good advice to his son, and takes the same kindly interest in all his doings, for he writes to him at Florence :—

"January 26th, Feb. 1665. Friday. KENSINGTON.

"SONNE,

"I have too much leisure to write considering the cessation of all Term business. I would commend to your Perusal the Letters of Cardinal D'Osa, they were first written in French and are translated into Italian, to you who have read D'Avilla they will be very intelligible, they will perfect you in both languages if you buy both, and the Knowledge of French History," etc. "There is nothing of elegance in them, but great exactness of judgment and understanding, Ay and of good manners too. My Lord Conway gave me this book at Radley, and it hath given me great pleasure in reading it. I have found some points of Law in it very useful. God blesse you and send you safe Home to

"Your ever loving Father,

"HENEAGE FINCH.

"I think to have logic and Philosophy read to yr. brothers at home, till I can write to Mr. Dean for another Tutor."

("Mr. Dean," Hon. Heneage Finch, Brother of the Chancellor, Dean of York.")

His Mother writes to him also at this time and shows some anxiety concerning his appearance. She refers to the Great Plague of London.

"DEAR SONNE, Nov. 30th, 1665, OXFORD.

"I was mighty glad to receive yr. letter from Florence because I was afraid of yr. taking Physick at Venice, but now you are come to yr. Uncle and Dr. Baynes

my mind is at rest, for I am sure you will want nothing that they can help you to it, and I hope in God you will now recover your health for I hear you are very melancholy and that makes mee believe you are not well. I pray you remember mee to yr. Uncle and Dr. Baynes with great affection and bee sure to watch yrselſe that you do not stoop for it is neither handsome nor wholesome. I hope to bee shortly at Kensington, for the sicknesse abates very much there died last week but 652 of the Plague and this week but 300, but the worst is that it is still dispersed in every Parish a little and God knows what it may come to agayn next summer. I goe next week to Radley to visit My Lady Conway then I return hither and goe to London if God please. Wherever I am I shall not cease to pray for you that God may blesse you and make you a blessing to your Father and to

"Your most affectionate Mother,

"ELIZABETH FINCH."

This is the only letter from Lady Finch among the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

The Chancellor writing on the same day says :—

"However be you cheerful and if you can use the Dancing Master then you are well cured, want nothing that I can pay for which can be fitt to divert you. And lett mee hear of your proficiency in armes. God Almighty blesse you and send you a happy return to the joy of your

"Ever Loving Father,

"OXFORD, 30, 1665.

"HENEAGE FINCH."

(In the following letter the year is not given).

"Sept. 11th.

"Travelling teaches every man how to shift. But you must observe too the Special Providences wch. do protect

and support you in such occasions, that you may remember them with gratitude both to God and men as long as you live. When you come to Venice Dr. Baynes charges you to eat no Oysters they are delicious but not so wholesome as ours.

"You may divert yourselfe a little with seeing the neer part of Flanders and return agayn to Ostend. Nothing but a firm Resolution will keep you from the inconveniences of Drinking. But be sure you never suffer the Civilities of Flanders or Germany to cheat you of your health, nor those of Italy to cheat you of your Religion.

"Your Brothers and Sisters remember you with great affection."

Occasionally his father writes him little scraps of public news. Thus :—

"*August 3-13. 1662.*

"The Dutch triumphs at Vienna were with Great Insolence for a supposed Victory in June. But now they have come to change their note although their Foreign Gazette in French speaks of the last Engagement not as of a doubtful Fight but as of a total rout and chase of ye English. By wch. you may conclude how far they are to be believed at any time. I pray God to bless you and yr. Mother is always Speaking of you and wishing well to you."

"'Tis possible and but Possible that wee may have a Treaty of Peace with the Dutch concerning wch. I have written at large to yr. Uncle but I forgott to tell him who they were who ye King hath appointed his Ambassadors to manage ye Treaty, viz.—My Lord Holby and Mr. Henry Coventry who was in Sweden. If ye Treaty proceeds I propose to send yr. Brother Heneage (first Earl of Ayles-

ford) in Mr. Coventry's Trayn that he may take occasion to see all ye Low Countrys."

Again he writes from Oxford :—

"I would not have you trouble Yourselfe att all about yr. Expenses for you cannot exceed my desires who would not have you want anything of Pleasure or Conveniency knowing yr. Temper so well as I do. The whole College salutes you and your Mother sends you her blessing."

"Oxon., Ch. Ch., November 15, 25.

"There is scarcely a day in the Week wherein yr. Mother and I do not heartily wish you at Home, the two years of your Voyages having expired."

There are probably many sons who would wish to have a father whose desires they could not exceed, but possibly there are few "serious" men who have the economical temper of young Daniel.

In 1667 the Chancellor writes :—

"I think of removing yr. brother William from Oxford altogether and bringing him to the Temple at Christmasse when my New Lodging will be finished, where I keep a Speciall Apartment for you and would be glad to see you there. I am not sure I shall provide a place for yr. Servant Pickering when he comes, but will endeavour it. However you may dismiss him if you please, but then do it like a Gentleman and furnishe him with means for his returne decently that he may have no cause to complaine of you."

In 1667 he writes :—"I do very much approve of your spending some part of your time in France and rather desire you should spend this winter there. This I presume is time enough to make you Master of the French tongue as farr as will be necessary for your conversation and to

instruct or perfect your Fencing and riding. When you come into France you may happily find My Lord St. Albans Ambasdr. there whom you must wait upon. So I pray God to blesse you and send you safe home at last to the Joy of your Mother and yr.

“Truly loving Father,

“HENEAGE FINCH.”

Daniel Finch must have found his knowledge of the French language useful when, in later life, he became Secretary of State, and received letters from Portland and others in that language.

In 1668 the Chancellor writes :—

“It would seem strange in me to give you admonition to avoyd ye Plague wch. they say is broke out in Paris, or the dangers of being late out of yr. Lodgings which by the returning of ye disbanded soldiers to Paris are said to be very frequent and very mortall, but these are your Mother’s cautions.”

1668. “I perceive Mr. Priestwood hath taken care for your further supply by the way of Rouen in Normandy, from whence the merchant writt him word he had sent you a £100. I ordered to make it £200 because your occasions for money there are quicker than they were in Italy, nor shall I make any reflections upon your expences as being very secure of your good conduct by an opinion of your virtue long since settled in me and not easily removed.”

January 1st, February 2nd. The Chancellor writes his son a little more public news :—

“I doe presume you have heard before this time of the Defensive League between England, Holland, and Sweden, etc., wch. I suppose is looked upon at Paris as a league

made against them, for so it will prove in effect if ye desires of that Great Monarch cannot be circumscribed ; now if this be likely to occasion a new rupture between France and us, or any affronts or inconvenience to ye English your stay will be unpleasant, but your removal from thence is in your own power whenever you think fitt enquire if the Code Loueys contayne any system of laws or be only a regulation of ye former of proceeding if ye latter I shall not much desire you to buy it, but first send me word."

"December 30th, January 9th, 1667-8.

"The best thing I can write and which I have reason to believe is that we shall undoubtedly send out a very considerable fleet next Summer. Your Uncle Sir Daniel Harvey is to go for Constantinople and as I hear to be made an English Viscount. Wee hear ye Earle of Clarendon hath been privilly at Paris and is gone back to Rouen. At Home all are well now, yr. brother Wm. comes abroad—except a maid servant who hath taken the infection and is removed out of the house, yr. brother Heneage stays in ye Country untill my new lodgings be finished. I am so oppressed with businesse I have no time for writing."

His old lodgings were destroyed by the great fire of London.

It is only possible to give a one sided correspondence, as young Daniel's letters to his father have not been preserved, so we can gain no information of his doings from his own version.

Made Commissioner of the Admiralty.

On his return from abroad he was made one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty. Sir John Evelyn, in his

Diary, gives the following :—"Feb. 25th. The New Commissioners of the Admiralty came to visite mee Viz. Sir Henry Capel, brother to the Earle of Essex. Mr. Finch, eldest son of the Lord Chancellor, Sir Humphry Winch, Sir Thomas Meeres, Mr. Hales, with some of the Commissioners of the Navy. I went with them to London."

Extract of a Letter from Daniel Finch to his Uncle, Sir John Finch.

"May 10th, 1680.

"MOST DEAR UNCLE,

"Since my returne out of ye Country, I have bin very much taken up wth ye bissinesse of ye Admiralty."

Among the papers at Burley is the following letter from King Charles II., written to Daniel Finch when he was at the Admiralty.

On the outside—"FOR MR. FINCHE," and a seal bearing the royal arms.

Letter from King Charles II. to Daniel Finch.

"WINDSOR, 13 March, 1681.

"I am informed that the Admiralty are thinking to turn the Foresters men over into the Tiger, which I would have you at least delay till I speake with you, and the reason of it is, because I would have my Lord Berckley command that shipp when shee is to be fitted out ; and tho I am not for imploying of men meerly for quality, yett when men of quality are fitt for the trade they desire to enter into, I thinke tis reasonable they should be encouraged at least equally with others and I assure you, this young man has been so industrious to improve himselfe and so successful in it, as he deserves some partiality in his case, to encourage others to the like,

and if you will take it into your particular care, the good husbandry of the matter may be provided for an other way, which I shall take very kindly from you.

"CHARLES R."

In the following year Daniel Finch became a Privy Councillor, and during the reign of Charles sat in several Parliaments as member of Lichfield and Newton in Hants. He is said to have distinguished himself by several learned speeches, which are printed in a book entitled "an exact collection of the debates of House of Commons, held at Westminster, Oct. 21st, 1680, &c."

His Marriage to Lady Essex Riche.

In 1674 Daniel Finch married Lady Essex Riche daughter and co-heir of Robert, Earl of Warwick. Among the deeds and old MSS. at Burley are her marriage settlement signed by herself.

Letter from the Lord Chancellor to his son Daniel on his Marriage to Lady Essex Rich.

"SONNE, Though you are as happy as an Excellent wife, and the care and kindness of a noble family can make you, yet I must needs say I desire once more to see you a man of buiseness agayn and that tis hard for you to guess how many things are now in disorder for want of your attention and inspection, This consideration in you, with the impatience I have to see my daughter agayn made me write to my Lady Warwick to give her leave to come home and to my daughter to invite her hither, I have hastened the preparations more than you think and shall be ready to receive her in 10 days. Your mother wishes you heartily out

of the Ague of Lees, which after mid sumer will every day grow worse and worse, you shall do well while you stay to take your horse very often and ride to the top of those hills wch encompasses that bottom, and to hasten your removal as soon as is possible. On Saterdag I waited on My Lord ——— and My Lord Scarsdale, on Monday my wife goes to Battersea where my Lady Mary continues indesposed, Upon Tuesday My lady Whitmore is marryed agayn to her first husband.

“God Bless you

“Yr. Father “FINCH. C.”

Essex seems to have been very delicate, judging from letters to her from her husband and father-in-law; their affection for her appears to have been great; indeed, Daniel writes her most pretty letters.

Extracts from an Old Prayer Book now at Burley.

Date 1638.

“Given unto Elizabeth Finch (wife to the Chancellor) August 28th, Anno Domino 1650. By her Deare Brother Mr. John Finch.” (Written in her writing.)

“Given unto Essex Finch March ye 25th, 1676 by my Lord Chancellor.” (Written in her handwriting.)

The following extract is written by Lord Nottingham, then Daniel Finch, concerning his marriage with Essex.

“On Tuesday ye 16th of June 1674, I was married to ye Lady Essex Rich ye youngest daughter and one of ye Co-heirs of Robert Earl of Warwick. In ye Chapell at Leez in Essex by Mr. Thomas Woodroffe.”





Essex Finch

ESSEX, COUNTESS OF NOTTINGHAM, DAUGHTER OF ROBERT, EARL OF WARWICK.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON THE HILL BY *Sir Peter Lely*.

Extracts from a Letter from the Lord Chancellor to Essex
Finch.

"MERTON COLLEGE, OXON. 20th March, 1680.

"MADAM,

"I am by the help of your good wishes and the rest of my good friends safely arrived at Oxford where I find myselfe in more health and ease than I thought possible to recover in two days I have not been yett to wayte upon the King, but am going this afternoon at four o'clock which will be the first tryall of my strength.

"Your most affectionate Father

"FINCH. C.

"My blessing to all my Dear Children and Grandchildren and remember mee in a special manner to my Valentine, your Husband is much enquired after. I excuse him as well as I can."

"July 29th, —80, he writes again.

"MADAM,

"I hope the Tunbridge Waters have given you as much relief and the good company as much diversion as could be expected from them for nothing in the World but the preservation of a health so necessary as yours is to mee and mine could ever make mee consent to so long separation, and this upon this account alone that I bear with patience the enlargement of the time which I see is intended to be three weeks longer (and much exceeds that time wick at first wee reckoned upon). But if a young Gentleman who is coming out of Buckinghamshire cannot prevayle with you to shorten that time I hope no ill weather there nor any ill news at home shall ever persuade you to it. For all here are as well as you left them, and as in your absence tis

possible they should bee, your little girle calls every day to see her Mother's letters and as often as she sees it, kisses your hands. We have a thousand storys in reserve for you when you come home. In the mean time I pray heartily for you that God would give you all the blessings which you want and a long continuance of those you now enjoy for I am ever and every day more and more

"Your most affectionate Father

"FINCH. C."

Letters from Daniel Finch to his Wife.

"RAVENSTONE."

"MY MOST DEAR LADY ESSEX,

"On Thursday I returned hither from Daventry and sent my Servant by ye way to Northampton in expectation of a letter from my dearest, wch. he brought mee to my great satisfaction till I had read it; you can't think yt. I have any kindness for you if you doe not thinke alsoe yt. your illness could not give mee greater pain than it gives mee trouble and affliction, and ye more because you tell mee tis not only worse in ye pain but in ye nature of it also. Thus you see how I disquiet myself, and you may imagine tis not a little when I am forced to resort to yt. comfort wch. at another time would be an affliction of itselfe and yt. is yt. you are in ye Cirugians (surgeon's) hands. I pray God to make him a successful Instrument of a Speedy cure. But if yt. pain continues it will be needful to have the advice of a Doctor also, lest it occasion a little feaver, but I cant tell what to say at this distance, and therefore I will make all possible haste home to my Dear who would need no other Artist than myself, had I but halfe so much skill as I have

tenderness and affection. I am impatient till I see you and therefore my journey to Kimbolton I'll think no more of. Let not the illness of our little Babe trouble you, however I hope God will bless her he has already given her so much health.

"My most Humble Duty to my Mother and Father.
My love to my Brother Heneage, etc. and

"Believe me my Dearest

"Most affectionately and entirely yours

"D. FINCH."

From Milton he writes April 24th, 1681.

"My Brother John has been at Bath and will be tomorrow at Tunbridge wth. his chariot and six horses (Flanders horses) and all things suitable thereunto; so yt he will be ye Chief Spark there. My Dearest I pray for you and My little ones and am yours most entirely and affectionately

"D. FINCH."

Essex seems to have been never strong enough to accompany her husband on any of his visits. He appears to have been a good sportsman and to have spent a good deal of his time at Newmarket hunting and racing, or he may have had some post about the court wch. necessitated his attending the King to these places—for he writes from Newmarket, Sept. 27th, 1781:—

"I was yesterday hawking with ye King and in ye afternoon at ye race, and then hunted with my Lord Aylesbury; who has promised me a couple of his Hounds wch. are very good. I have sent my Father some few bottles of my small beer, wch. if Fasting all day has not spoilt my taste I thinke will please him." (Then follows a long dissertation about her health, concluding with) "For your own sake therefore and if you please for my sake be cheerfull,

yt. I may be so too; and then you will be ever with mee who never had so true joy as when I contributed anything to yours. I bessech God to preserve you long in health and happinesse.

"I am my Dearest Dear,

"Yours most unalterably,

"D. FINCH."

Sept. 25th, 1681, he writes a little more sporting news:—

"I have this night spoke to Mr. Chiffinch for some warrants for Does which he will give mee; and he has lent mee ye use of his Kennell in Hyde Park for my Hounds. This afternoon a horse of Mr. Frampton's called Petlam ran for 300lb. wth. Sir Roland Carr's horse called Trinker wch. last was beaten. In ye morning I was coursing with ye King and find ye exercise of this place agree with mee and gives me a very good stomach."

Another letter written the same day runs thus:—

"My Dearest I came to this place yesterday in very good time, and am pretty well lodg'd though not so well as my horses, there being much better accommodation for horses than for men. The King goes to Cambridge on Tuesday; and probably I may wait on him and take yt. opportunity of seeing my brothers. He supp'd last night at ye Duke of Albemarle's he and all ye Jockies with him, in order to make some horse matches wch. will furnish me with a great deal of matter for my next letter, etc."

Unfortunately the next letters are not among the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

Extracts from the Old Prayer Book.

In the old Prayer Book afore mentioned are the following somewhat pathetic entries in Lord Nottingham's hand-

writing, concerning the death of his wife and the birth and death of his children by her.

"(1) Elizabeth.—On Monday ye 16th of April, 1675, was born our first child. She was baptised in ye House in Queen Street by Dr. Sharpe. Her Godfather was my Father, her Godmother Mary Countess Dowager of Warwick, and my Mother ye Lady Finch. Ye 28th of January following about 8 of ye clock in ye morning she dyed of convulsion Fitts, being first grown a most lovely Babe. She was buried in our Vault under our pew in Kensington church and removed to our Vault at Ravenstone in Bucks."

"(2) Elizabeth, 1676.—On Thursday ye Eleventh day of May, 1676, about 7 minutes past three of ye clock in ye morning was born Elizabeth our second child. On February ye 4th, 1678, she died of convulsions occasioned by ye pains of seven teeth wch. were swell'd together and cutt by Cirugion 4 daies before. She was buried in our Vault at Kensington Church and removed to our Vaults at Ravenstone in Bucks."

"(3) Mary, 1677.—On Friday ye Eighteenth Day of May, 1677, about a quarter of an hour past six of ye clock in ye morning was born Mary our third child at our house near Kensington. She was married on ye 2nd of April at Exton in Rutland by my Chaplain Dr. Burton unto William Lord Eland sonne to ye Honble. George Lord Marquis Halifax—Quibus Odeus."

Her second marriage is also recorded.

"(4) Letitia Isabella, 1679.—On Thursday ye 28th day of May, 1678, about five minutes past twelve of ye clock at noon was born Letitia Isabella, at our House in Kensington. (One of her Godparents was my sister Finch and my brother Heneage" (afterwards first Earl of Ayles-

ford). "She died at Paris (whither she was sent in hopes of a recovery from a lingering distemper) on Friday ye 28th of May, 1680, about six of ye clock in ye afternoon. Her body was brought over and buried in our vault at Ravenstone."

1679 he writes his wife was very ill, "with great danger of her life, being in five or six hours brought to ye point of death, but by God's great mercy escapt and recovered—Deo Gratia."

"(5) Anne, 1679-80.—On Thursday ye fifth of February was born Anne. On Monday ye 5th of April she dyed of Convulsion fitts, having had fitts almost every moment from Tuesday ye 30th of March to ye time of her death. She is buried in our vault at Ravenstone."

"(6) Heneage, 1681.—On Saturday night 1682, or rather Sunday morning he sickened and had an Erisypilas on his left arme at ye same time he had three or four great teeth which were afterwards launced, and all this accompanied with violent sicknesse. So that on Sunday night August 27th he died. He is buried in our Vault at Ravenstone, Bucks."

"(7) John, 1682.—Born at our House near Kensington (one Godparent Sir John Finch, cousin). On Thursday, 1691, he was taken with a great sleepinesse and immediately with a violent sicknesse and an high feaver wch. proved to be a scarlatt one and continued with a great variety of symptoms good and bad till the 24th day when he appeared to his physicians much better, they concluded him past danger. But it pleased God to disappoint these hopes. For his disease returned with more force. He breathed his last which was on Saturday the 12th day of December, about a quarter of an hour before 3 in ye morning. Thus

dyed my beloved child in whom there was nothing wanting to please a good or even a vain father. He was beautiful, tall and well proportioned. He had a vigorous, active and nimble strength and an healthful constitution, a sweet and agreeable voice in speaking and a graceful and sprightly motion. But he had much better ornaments of an excellent mind; he had an easy and retentive memory, a quick apprehension and understanding much above his years asking questions and making reflections upon what he learnt. At 4 years old he began to learn to read and in 28 days from not knowing a letter he read perfectly observing points and giving ye proper accent so yt he read very intelligibly to others and plainly showed yt he himself also understood ye matter. At five and a-half he entered upon ye Latin tongue and made greate progresse, having read some parts of Ovid's metaphoses and could write true and not very improper Latin. He understood and spoke French as well as his mother tongue; his great improvements made him love learning and to affect greater. His morals equalled his understanding." (Then follows a long dissertation on his virtues ending with), "In a word he was a son worthy of his excellent mother, and I had nothing to wish for but his longe life wich I did not deserve for I was too proud of him. His body lyes in our Vault at Ravenstone where he was layed on 22nd of December."

In this touching account of his little son's death we see the great anguish of the father at the loss of his favourite child, whose poor little over crammed mind evidently made him unfit to fight a serious illness when it came.

"(8) Essex 1683-4, at our House in Gerrard Street, So-Ho Fields, Godparents my brother Heneage, and my sister Mary Finch. Saturday ye following about 11 of ye

clock at night she dyed of erysipelas (she lived ten days only). Buried the same day with her mother in our vault at Ravenstone in Bucks."

With this ends the mournful list of his children by his first wife, of whom only one survived.

His Account of His Wife's Death.

"My Dear Wife" (then follows a long dissertation on the symptoms and nature of her illness which it is unnecessary to give here). "On Saturday morning ye distemper more and more siez'd her head. And on Sunday the 23rd of March the Doctor concluded her illness to be incurable and about five of ye clock that evening it pleased Almighty God to take her to Himselfe out of this world that was not worthy of her. A pious and most exemplary woman, the best wife, the best friend, the most prudent and faithfulest companion yt ever man enjoyed. Her children she recommended to me, but with ye request only that I would take care to breed ym up in ye fear of God. And to me she repeated what she had said some months before, yt she thought it was very expedient and good for me yt she should dye and therefore was contented to doe so, that by this affliction I might be weaned from ye world, for t'was hard I confesse to think of leaving it while she was in it, and so be fitted for a better; in which we might eternally live together. And I most humbly beseech Almighty God to hear her prayers and mine yt. I may henceforth sett my affection on things above and be prepared to follow her to those Heavenly mansions of bliss where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes and we shall everlastingly rejoyce in the mercies of our God. The God of Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

Death of Lady Essex Finch.

Poor Essex with her delicate health did not live long, for after fourteen years of married life, she died in 1664, two years after her husband had succeeded his father as Earl of Nottingham. She is buried at Ravenstone in the family vault. Of her children "My little Ones," as her husband writes, only one survived, namely Mary "your little Girle," of whom the Chancellor speaks in his letters.

In the Registry at Ravenstone are the following entries :—Heneage, son to Rt. Honbl. Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham, buried August 1st, 1682.

The Honble. Lady Essex Finch, Daughter of Rt. Honble. Daniel Earl of Nottingham, buried April 1st, 1684. (From this entry it is evident her mother died at her birth.)

The Rt. Honble. John Lord Finch (son of Essex, Lady Nottingham), buried Dec. 22nd, 1691.

The Right Honble. Lady Essex Finch wife to the Rt. Honble. Daniel Finch, buried April 1st, 1684.

Becomes Earl of Nottingham.

In 1682 Daniel Finch succeeded his father as Lord Nottingham, and on the death of Charles II. was one of the Privy Council who signed the Order at Whitehall, Feb. 6th. In this reign he spoke frequently against annulling the Test Act. Nottingham, like many of his contemporaries was dissatisfied with James as his King. Burnet, in his history, speaking of this, tells us there was a consultation in England "as to whether an invitation should be sent to the Prince of Orange to land with an Army," he also says "Lord Mauduant was the first English Nobleman who openly came over to the Prince, and amongst others

who joined his party, were the Earl of Shrewsbury and Algernon Sidney, who was in great confidence with the Prince," &c. "Sidney tried the Earl of Halifax whether he was for inviting the Prince over, but he looked upon it as a dangerous project. It was then proposed by the Earl of Danby who engaged in it himself, and brought the Bishop of London into it; by their advice it was proposed to the Earl of Nottingham, who was in great credit with the Church of England and a man of virtue and gravity. He had some knowledge of the Law and of Parliamentary Records; he was a copious speaker, but too florid and tedious. He kept at a distance from the Court all this reign and entertained the proposition at first, but told them afterwards his conscience would not suffer him to proceed in it."

On the landing of the Prince in England, James sent upon the advice of the Privy Councillors and Peers, "the Marquis of Halifax, the Earl of Nottingham, and Lord Godolphin to know what he (the Prince) demanded." On their return they found the King had fled. Nottingham was among the Peers and Councillors who managed the affairs of the kingdom till the arrival of the Prince.

Is Offered the Chancellorship.

On the proclamation of William and Mary as King and Queen, they having a high opinion of Lord Nottingham's ability, offered him the post of Lord Chancellor, which he refused, saying he "was unfit for a post requiring such constant application." He was then made one of the principal Secretaries of State. During the year 1693, he





Nottingham

DANIEL FINCH, SECOND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM AND SEVENTH EARL
OF WINCHELSEA. FROM A PRINT BY *Houbraken* AT BURLEV-ON-THE HILL.

was sole Secretary of State. (See Macaulay's "History of England.")

In 1690 he accompanied the King to the famous Congress at the Hague. King James, being highly offended at his services to William, exempted him from his general pardon. The Whig Party are said to have been much disgusted when Nottingham was made Secretary of State, as he was a staunch Tory. "My principles," said Nottingham, "do not permit me to bear any part in making a King but when a King has been made, my principles bind me to pay him an obedience more strict than he can expect from those who have made him." Thus did he justify himself for the acceptance of this post. It is probable that William thought the appointment of Nottingham would be considered by the clergy and Tory Party as sufficient guarantee that no evil was intended to the Church.

Burnet's Opinion of the Appointment.

Burnet in his "Memoirs" of his own time, owned that the King had chosen his Secretary wisely, and that the influence of Nottingham, honestly devoted to the support of these Soverigns, "had saved England from great calamities." At a later time Burnet disliked Nottingham intensely, and his History abounds with criticisms and sarcastic remarks on that statesman. Macaulay tells us that a great hatred was held by those concerned in Fuller's plot against all the Tory Party, but more particularly against Nottingham. Their enmity towards him knew no bounds, and "was probably excited less by his political opinions, in which there was doubtless much to condemn, than by his moral character, in which the closest scrutiny will detect little that is not deserving of approbation."

Macaulay further tells us they would "have delighted to see Nottingham's long, solemn face on Tower Hill."

From 1692 to 1693 may be said to have been the most important epoch of Lord Nottingham's public career.

Among the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill is the following curious little note, written by Mary of Modena, second wife of King James II. Where it was written from, or to whom it is addressed there is no clue. It is possible the bearer of it came to England to see some members of the Jacobite Party. Lord Nottingham as Secretary of State to William of Orange, would no doubt have spies to report the doings of the Jacobites, and seize any of their papers that could be got hold of. This would doubtless be the reason for the note found among his letters concerning State business.

The note is written on a scrap of paper folded into a very small compass. It is wrapped in another paper, on which is written in Lord Nottingham's handwriting:—

"Taken by Xian July 25, among papers Sold" (this word is indistinct) "up and thrown out of a window in La. Mong. House."

(The last name is shortened, whether it is Montagu, Monteagle, or Montgomery, or what, is uncertain.²)

Note in Queen Mary of Modena's Writing.

On the outside—"For yourself."

"This is to lett all my friends know that i trust this berer intirely and they may do so to, for to my knowledge he is extremely honest and zealous in his master's service if any

² It is probable, the name shortened is Montgomery, as Sir James Montgomery was employed constantly as a bearer of news from the Court of St. Germain to England.

can help him to hide himself, or to get back safe to me, they will do me a great peece of service.—MARIA R.”

At the bottom is her seal a Royal crown with the letters M. R. entwined.

There are also many letters from Blathwayte, Secretary of War and Clerk of the Council, &c., to Nottingham. They are for the most part written from the Camp at Gramont, and give details of the movements of the army, and also make known the King's wishes concerning the Home Policy. In six large MSS. books are also to be found “The orders of the Council”; many of them are in Lord Nottingham's handwriting and bear his signature. Among the letters to Nottingham, written about this time, are some from the Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Monmouth, Capt. Rooke, and Bentinck, Earl of Portland, the latter written in French, as are also Nottingham's answers to him, of which there are copies. It is impossible to quote or even give extracts of these somewhat curious and interesting papers. In the first place, they are no doubt among the State papers at the British Museum; also they relate more to general history than to that of the individual.

The following letter from Sir Cloudesly Shovel has been given here as a specimen of Lord Nottingham's correspondence at this time.

Letter from Sir Cloudesley Shovel to Lord Nottingham.
Address:—“Ffor their Majty. esphsall Service ffor the Right Honble the Earle of Nottingham Principal Secretary of Statte London.”

“MY LORD,—

“By a Messenger I just now recd. yr Lordships of the 20th instant; and yesterday morning I recd. one of the same tennor and date from Sir Robert Southwell; by ye

waye of Bidiford and in order to comply with ym I have indeavoured at Possible Dispatch when we com hither we were all without Provision, mor especiallie Bear (beer) for want of which we shall not be reddy to saile munday : by wch time I hope the ships designed from our Fleet will joyne us for I am sure our dispearence in these parts will be great discouragement to the enemy provided we can show Superior to the French : in these parts. But whether the ships designed to joyne us com or not I will with all expedition put his Mayesty's orders in Execution not else to trouble your Ldppp but My Humble Service.

"I remain, my Lord your Lordship's most faithfull and Humble Serv.

"CLOUD. SHOVELL.

"Monk ; ye 22- of August, 1690."

Made Queen's Chamberlain.

It would seem that during the King's absence in Ireland and the Netherlands, Nottingham was appointed Lord Chamberlain to Queen Mary. She appears to have had a great regard for him, and writes frequently to the King, defending his character from the assaults made upon it. Like all public men of every age, he was the subject of much abuse and criticism, more particularly in his administration of maritime affairs. It is hardly to be wondered at, for clever as Nottingham undoubtedly was, he was hardly the man to direct naval affairs. He seems to have been quite unaware of his own incapacity, thinking, no doubt, that his former appointment at the Admiralty made him capable of managing naval matters. Practical sailors naturally rebelled against his authority, and a fierce quarrel ensued between Russell, Admiral of the Fleet, and

Nottingham.⁸ Each accused the other for the failure of naval policy. Evelyn, in his Diary, remarks, "The quarrel between Admiral Russell and the Earl of Nottingham yet undetermined. Jan. 1693."

His quarrel with Danby.

The Queen's defence of her Chamberlain.

Nottingham seems likewise to have quarrelled with Danby, for the Queen Mary writing to William says: "I believe the Lord President and Lord Nottingham agree very well, though I believe the first pretends to govern all, and I see the other is always ready to yield to him, and seems to me to have a great deal of deference for him, whether they always agree or not I cannot tell."

In another letter she details what Lord Monmouth said to her on the subject. "For my part I must speak plainly. I have a great deal of reason to esteem Lord Nottingham, I don't believe t'is he, t'is some in his office." Again writing to the King she says, "I must say once more Lord Nottingham seems to me to be sincere, though he does not take much pains to persuade me of it upon all occasions, as others do, for he never spoke but once of himself. I confess I incline to have a good opinion of him. It may be his formal look deceives me. He brought me your letter to day, and I could not hold so he saw me cry wch. I have hindered myself before anybody till then."

Sir John Louthier says, speaking of Nottingham: "To my knowledge their majesties have no more zealous, laborious, or faithful servant than my Lord Nottingham."

⁸ There are several letters from Russell among the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

Resigns his Post of Secretary of State.

The 12th of November, 1693, Sir John Evelyn says :—

"Lord Nottingham resigned as Secretary of State; the Commissioners of the Admiralty ousted, and Russell restored to his office."⁴ Thus ended the great naval squabble, and Nottingham retired from all public affairs during this reign. It is at this time we find him writing to his brother concerning his wishes for his children, in case of his death. Speaking of his eldest son, he says somewhat bitterly : "I desire you to recommend him most earnestly from me (I could almost say charge him) yt. he never accept any publick Employment from any King or Government."

King William acknowledges his services in these words : "I thank you for your services. I have nothing to complain of in your conduct. It is only from necessity that I part with you."

Letter from Sir Paul Rycaut to Lord Nottingham on his Resignation of his Secretaryship.

"HAMBURGH, *Nov. 17th*, 1693.

"MY LORD,—

"I was much surprised to understand by a letter from Mr. Warre of the 7th instant, that yr Lordpp had by order of the King delivered up the seals of the Secretary's Office into the hands of His Majty. But when I further reflected on the circumstances wth. wch they were received and the great testimony and eulogy wch His Majty. passed on yr Lordpp. at their delivery I looked on the same, as a

⁴ Russell was made first Lord of the Admiralty; this necessitated Nottingham's resignation.

cleare evidence, and irrefragable sentence in favour of yr fidelitie, and conduct throughout the whole course of yr Ldpp's administration. Your Lordp. has the blessing not only to be endued with the goods of Fortune, but with those of nature, and wth such a stock of wisdom, and virues wch are derived from it, that as to yourself, My Lord nothing can be wanting to make you happy in a private condition. But then what will become of our country, unlesse in pittie thereunto you labour to reasume yr office, the losse of which will be much more to the Public, than to yr Lordp in a private capacitie; I dare say that it is one great signes of the distracted state of our nation, that they are not sensible of the losse of so good, and great a minister. I shall only conclude, that as to myself I shall want a Patron and a Director, having for the space of four yeares and a half in this public character, experienced the benefit of yr Lordp's protection; so that I may say, as was once of a great Minister in the Reigne of Tiberius-Vcungs Nobis, et reipublie. parum. sibi certi satis, sucegs gloria vixisse videbitur.

"I am with all sinceritie,

"My Lord yr Lordpp's Most faithful, most Humble, and most obedient Servant.

"PAUL RYCAUT."⁵

His Honesty in Public Affairs.

In 1695 an examination was held in Parliament to inquire into the bribery and corruption of some of their members.

⁵ Sir Paul Rycaut, Traveller and Diplomatist. In 1661, he accompanied, Heneage, Earl of Winchelsea, Ambassador Extraordinary to Turkey, as Secretary. He wrote some books on the Ottoman Empire.

More particularly concerning a new Charter for the East India Company; at this examination it transpired that Nottingham had absolutely refused to accept five thousand guineas on passing of the Charter. He had further declined £5,000 on Act of Parliament. Unwise as his administration of public affairs may have been, he was at least an honest gentleman. It is almost impossible in the present day for us to judge of the motives and abilities of a minister in those days. Lord Nottingham may or may not have been a capable man, he lived and held office in one of the most important epochs of English history, and had for his king one of the finest statesmen that the world has seen.

Takes Office under Government Again.

On the accession of Queen Anne in 1702, Nottingham was sworn in her Privy Council, and made Lord Lieutenant of the County of Kent, and once more Secretary of State.

In a paper now at Burley an account is given of the profits and expenses attached to this office. They are too long to be quoted in full, a few extracts only are given.

The paper is entitled "T. Armstrong's Acct of the Profits of the Office from 22nd of May, 1702, to 22nd Apr. 1704."

During that time Lord Nottingham received the sum of £16,279. 14s. 8d.

His expenditure was £4,191. os. 2d.

Clear profit, £12,088. 12s. 8d.

The different objects for which he received his money were :—

"The moiety of fees at both offices :

"Money received for Secret Service, Sallary, Fee due on the Patent, Board wages, and the Moity of the profit of Gazettes."

Among the many expenses the following are a few specimens :—

"By Payments of Secret Service, viz. :

"Bringing a prisoner from Gravesand, £1. 1s. 6d.

"Mr. Heathcote on a bill of exchange, £274. 14s. 7d.

"Sir Gilbert Heathcote, £294. 2s. 4d.

"The Bishop of London concerning Wm. Fuller, £15. 1s.

"By fees on receiving my lord's plate, viz.,

"Warrant at the Treary, 10s. 9d.

"At ye Jewell Office, £4. 16s. 9d.

"Stamps to the indentures, 2s.

"By fees for passing ye privy seel for Secret Service, viz. :

"Signet and stamps, £1. 12s. 6d.

"Stamps for ye Privy seal, £14. 5s. 4d.

"By paymt to the French church in Spring Gardens, £8. 15s.

"By taxes for the office, £712.

"By fees on ye first Board Wages, £3. 18s. 11d.

"By exchequer fees, £23. 13s., etc.

"By bills to Tradesmen and others, viz.:

"Maps, brooms, etc., £1. 3s. 6d.

"Scutles, mapss, etc., £1. 7s. 1d. Vere for wood and coales, £56.

"Warner for tallow candles, £21. 10s.

"Forest for charcoal, £5. 3s. 6d. Shorter for sweeping chimneys, 8s. 6d.

"Anthony for flying Pacquet, 12s.

"Mr. Tookes coach hire to Lord Keepers in 1703 and 1704, £133. 8s. 6d."

The House of Commons gave two votes in his favour, viz., that he had "highly merited the trust her Majesty had reposed in him."

**Letter from the Earl of Sunderland to Lord Nottingham
Concerning the Death of Queen Anne.**

"Friday night, 8'a clock.

"MY LORD,—

"The Queen was very much out of order all day yesterday, and this morning she was seized with a fitt of an Apoplexy which continued upon her above two hours, she then so far recovered as just to know people and to speak with difficulty, they have since applyd all remmedies even the most violent, butt without any effect, so that all the physitians agree she will dye to-night to-morrow, they have declared this to the councill which satt all day at Kensington. I am now at Monsr. Bothmans, who has desired me to send this express to you, to beg you without loss of time to come up, immediately; we have sent out to our other friends, that are within reach, it is of the last consequence and therefore for God's sake don't delay a moment.

"I am ever with the utmost truth and respect,

"My Lord Yr Lordp's most obedient humble servant,

"SUNDERLAND.

"I must not forgett telling yr Ldpp. yt as soon as the Queen could just know people, the Councill beg'd her to give the Treasurers staff to the Duke of Shrewsbury, which she did immediately."

Resigns his Post of Secretary.

In 1704 he resigned his secretaryship. On the accession of George the First he became one of the Lords Chief Justice pending the King's arrival. February 24th he was made Lord President of the Council.

Concerning Lord Nottingham.

In 1716 when the six peers were condemned for intriguing with the Court of Saint Germain in support of the Pretender, on their being brought before the House of Lords, many of the friends of the unfortunate noblemen spoke in their defence, amongst them the Earl of Nottingham. This defection on his part threw confusion and discord into the ministerial ranks, and on the ministers meeting in Council in the evening, it was resolved to dismiss Lord Nottingham, his son Lord Finch, and the Earl of Aylesford, his brother, from Office, as a mark of the Royal displeasure at the course which the former had so unexpectedly taken. Walpole writes thus to his brother on the subject:—"You will be surprised at the dismissal of the Dismals, but all the trouble we have had in favour of the condemned Lords arose from that corner; and they had taken their Oath to have no more to do with us; and so the shortest end was thought the best. There are storms in the air, but I doubt not they will be blown over."⁶

"Though a very honest man," says Macaulay, "he went out of office much richer than he had come in five years before. The legitimate emoluments of his place were great." He invested his money in land.

⁶ Mahon's "History of England."

Retires Completely from Public Life.

February 29th, 1715, he retired completely from all public affairs. The University of Oxford, in the following year in full Convocation, agreed that the University "give solemn thanks to Lord Nottingham for his noble defence of the Christian faith."

The account of his public life may appear somewhat dry, but it is difficult to make an amusing history out of a rather dreary episode. It has been thought better to record his public career apart from his domestic life.

Private Life Continued.—His Second Marriage.

Lord Nottingham married in 1685 Anne Hatton, daughter of Christopher, 2nd Lord Hatton, the owner of Kirby Hall—now unfortunately a ruin.

In the old Prayer-book, in which all these doings were chronicled, the following account of the ceremony is found, written by Lord Nottingham himself :—

"On Thursday ye 28th day of Dec., 1685, I was married unto Mrs. Anne Hatton, daughter of Christopher, Lord Viscount Hatton, in the Church of St. Giles in the fields by Dr. John Sharpe, Dean of Norwich."

She has a rather romantic story attached to her. In 1672 her father was Governor of Guernsey, living at Guernsey Cournet Castle. One night the Powder Magazine was struck by lightning. Lord Hatton, who was in bed, was blown out of the window and lay for some time on the wall stunned, but otherwise unhurt. His wife, family, and attendants all perished, with the exception of one little daughter, who was destined to become the wife of Lord Nottingham. There are four pictures of Anne, Lady



A. Nottingham

ANNE, COUNTESS OF WINCHELSEA AND NOTTINGHAM
(AS A YOUNG WOMAN).

FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Sir G. Kneller*.

See the book on page 107

Nottingham, at Burley, and two miniatures. As a young woman she must have been very handsome, towards middle age she became rather disagreeable-looking, to judge from her portraits.

As Lord Nottingham had many children, and they are frequently mentioned in the letters given later, it is as well to state their number and names before proceeding further. By his first marriage Lord Nottingham had one surviving, a daughter Mary. By his second marriage he had nine daughters: Essex, Charlotte, Mary, Harriot or Henrietta, Elizabeth (Betty), Frances, Margaret, Martha, Mary,⁷ and six sons; Heneage (who died young), Daniel (Lord Finch), William, John, Henry and Edward.

Anne, Lady Nottingham—Her Character. Extracts from her Letters to her Husband.

Of the qualities of Anne in domestic life there can be no doubt. She was an affectionate mother, a loving and dutiful wife, and a capable woman. She appears to have had good business qualities, for when her husband was occupied in State affairs she was entrusted to watch over the building of Burley-on-the-Hill and the workmen employed.

Extracts from her Letters to Lord Nottingham.

“Good Friday,

“You are truly kind my Dearest to let me hear of you so soon, and your diligence to do so makes me hope yt. care for me wch. I can never suspect, but wch. you

⁷ It is impossible to account for three possessing the name of Mary.

profess, makes you guess what I feel for you. I have now some time to confirm me yt. ye ease of my side did not proceed from ye motion of ye coache for I have never ye leaste tendency towards my paine since I came, and my rest last night was much freed from ye trouble of my cough, And I doe truly think I have coughed much lesse this morning than I uste to, for you know ye morning was ye time my cough troubled me most. I am sure my stomach to my meat is much mended for I eat more heartily than I have done some while by a great deal, but yet yt. you may have no reason to doubt of my desire to be with you. I have not and will not omit ye least tittle of your orders till I have further leave from him whom to obey must always be a pleasure to yrs Faithfully,

"A. N."

"Pray in your next lett me know how my Father's cough does, I hope all yr. children are well because you say nothing to the contrary."

"Oct. ye 18th.

"MY DEAR,—

"I have both your letters, and whom you appoint by Monday shall be ready as you order to greet Richard at Broughton. I hope you are well and have catch't no cold wch. I apprehend at yr. first coming to towne but pray be more particular in yr. next as to yr. own health," &c. Later she shows an economical mind, for the letter ends with the announcement that "wool is fallen four shillings in a tod since Sir G. Bing's victory. Pray order John Towel to get me the quadruple quantity of the ingredients for the powders, wch. I left a note with him of; and send me the bill of them separate from all others; that I may see that he does not impose upon me, but keeps the rates he told me

he would furnish me with them when I was in Towne. We are all well.

"Yrs. wth. all obedience,

"A. NOTTINGHAM."

Lady Nottingham is Appointed Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Mary.

In 1718 Lady Nottingham became Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen. The following certificate is among the papers at Burley-on-the-Hill. "This is to certify that I have sworn and admitted Anne, Countess of Nottingham, in the Place and Quality of one of her Majesty's Ladys of the Bedchamber to have, receive and enjoye all Rights, Profits, Privileges, Preeminences, and advantages there unto belonging, in as full and ample a manner as any person or persons have here to fore held and enjoyed the same. Given at Whitehall under my hand and seale, the 27th of August, 1691, at the third year of their Majesties reigne.

"WINCHESTER."

Unfortunately in none of her letters does Lady Nottingham mention her life at Court, or even refer to her Royal mistress.

It would seem that during the building of the House, the Nottinghams lived a good deal at Exton. It is from this place Lord Nottingham writes to his brothers, concerning his children in case of his death. As this letter or will gives us a good insight into his views on education, &c., a few extracts are given.

Lord Nottingham's Letter to his Brothers concerning his Will.

"April 30th, 1695. EXTON.

"DEAR BROTHERS,—

"Having made my will dated April ye 29th, -95. I think it may be useful to say some few things upon it to you in whom I have reposed full trust and confidence." He continues to say that his motive in writing this epistle is, that they may know what are his wishes, should he die. They, being fully informed of his designs, were to execute them "with a due regard to ye honour and interest of ye heir Male of my family and without doing wrong to my wife or younger children. Some part of my estate being in reversian, some charges upon it being for life, and ye anuall maintenance of my growng with them. You know I formally designed to sell only Hockley and Fowlness and had given the rest of my Essex Estate to my second son. This I have altered for reasons I have told you and need not be mentioned here. The manors and advowsons and woods (besides Fowlness) will I hope produce nineteen thousand pounds wch (with the diamond cross and rubies and the money due to me) will discharge my debts and the Portion of my sister Mary and my brother Robert, so that perhaps there may be no necessity of selling Fowlness which wht. ever you may think is a very valuable Estate;⁸ and is truly worth 25,000 lb. ; however if you find my affairs require it, or you judge it fitt, having a good opportunity for it, in order to lay my Estate nearer together yt. my son may more easily take care of it and prevents the Cheats that wch. Bailiffs at a distance may put upon Him." If the

⁸ Fowlness, which still goes with the Rutland property, is now worth scarcely anything, and is a constant source of misfortune.

Brothers did not think it advisable to sell the Island they were to sell his "lands of Stoke and Greetham," but if they sold Foulness Lord Nottingham thought it advisable to buy "Gothurst and Stoke in Bucks, and Ashwel and Gunthorpe in Rutland." The house at Gothurst he declares to be "very ruinous and not very valuable in itself and less to me now than when I designe'd it for a seat. Ashwell is preferable in many respects and I am told is about 100 lb. per annum. and good rents and joyns my land. The product of Fowlness will probably pay ye price of Gothurst and Gunthorpe or Ashwell, and Gunthorpe I recommend you to buy such as Lyes near my lands in Rutland or Bucks or Northamptonshire, since which ye best wch. induces me to see Fowlness is its distance from what I have Designed for my eldest sonne. Ye heavy affliction of his blindness by wch. he is deprived of these improvements by education wch. might render him fitt to be trusted, and is more liable to cheats and abuses." Lord Nottingham then continues that he thinks "it is not prudent or kind to leave it in his power to ruin himself and family." He thinks also that owing to his blindness, it is unlikely "Heneage should marry," but if "he should recover his sight by the pleasure of God whose mercy and power are infinite, or if he should marry discreetly ; and should notwithstanding his blindness prove capable of managing his Estate," they might make him tenant in all. His father continues that for his part he has not much hope of his son's recovery, and does not wish him to marry lest his infirmity should descend to his children and "be a continued misfortune and blemish to my family." His uncles were to guard him carefully and keep him from evil companions. If Heneage dies (which he did) his second brother Daniel was to be persuaded, if possible, to entail

the Estate. Daniel, William, John and Henry were to receive £100 a year whilst they were young and lived with their mother, and if any of them "should come to ye Innes of Court and study ye Law" they were to be allowed an increased allowance but at the University "notwithstanding their foolish customes I do not think it necessary and intreat you to suppress in my children yt. vanity and affection of what they call there a nobleman of which kind scarce any ever came to be considerable men."

Lord Nottingham declares he cannot stipulate any profession for his younger sons, not knowing their "capacitys or disposition." His wishes for Daniel are that he "should study ye Law, but pray oblige them all," he continues, "to some preffession and business, for an idle man is a burden to himself and his family. But above all I beg that all my children may be bred up in ye fear of God yt. He, who can, may take care of them. In ye marriage of my sons and daughters I desire you principally to have regard to ye virtue and good nature of ye persons to whom they shall be match't, without wch. marriage is a yoke like that of tying ye dead to ye living. In the marriage of my daughters their particular happinesse is chiefly to be aim'd at. In that of my son I wish you could carry yt. prospect a little further. I wish if Heneage dies yt. my eldest sonnē would not marry till he is of years to judge better thereby how to live in the world." He did not wish his son to marry very young, neither were his uncles to let him marry a "woman of a light or loose education or conversation," or the daughter of a foolish woman, "let the daughter be what she will," the uncles were not to be tempted by any fortune into persuading him to marry "anybody he did not entirely like." Neither was he to be allowed to marry a person of a consumptive family,

nor "of a Household remarkable for ill nature or Folly," as the consumption was likely to be hereditary and "ill nature spoys all ye joys of married life and may sprout up in his children, and Folly cannot be repared by any Fortune she can bring to a Family," &c., &c. This long letter terminates with, "I am very sensible my dear Brothers, how great a burden I have desired you to undertake. I commit you to the mercies of God and to His good Providence, Beseeching Him to bless both you and yours and yt. we may meet again in ye joys of a better World.

"Your most affectionate Brother,

"NOTTINGHAM."

As Lord Nottingham did not die until 1729, the brothers did not have the arduous task of carrying out all these excellent instructions. On the whole it would seem that his sons were successful men, three certainly were by no means deficient in brains. His daughters made good and, it is to be hoped, happy marriages, so Lord Nottingham may rank as a successful parent.

Lady Nottingham's Correspondence Continued.

Occasionally it appears Lady Nottingham finds it rather difficult to be "Yrs. with all obedience," for she writes somewhat plaintively Nov. 13th, 1718, "I will prepare for my journey and send to-morrow to Stamford to get horses, but I can't help a saying I wish some orders by Saturday's or Monday's Post might Stop it. Tis very greavous to me to leave my Girles. If you persist in my journey there must be a Norwich silke Crep be got ready for me, having had nothing since Lady Essex's mourning (Essex Mostyn, her eldest daughter) and care that it be a good one of the kind

for there is great difference in them and a black hood as is fitt for mee to wear, the rest of the things I have. I pray God to blesse you and send us a happy meeting.

"Yrs. with all obedience,

"A. NOTTINGHAM."

It would seem from her letter that the unfortunate Lord Nottingham was expected to buy the "black silke Crep." One can imagine his perplexity in having to choose it, especially after his wife's severe remarks that "care be taken that it be a good one."

Again writing from Burley, Nov., 1718, she says :—

"MY DEAR,—

"I am very much perplexed by yrs. of 8th, repeating yr. desires of my coming to Towne which I ought alwayes to obey, but the thoughts of leaving my poor Deare Girles is very greavous. Pray ask Lord F. (Finch) if he received no French letters, the Ladies complain they have had no answer to some they had writt.

"Yrs. with all obedience,

"A. NOTTINGHAM."

Lord N. appears to have assisted in household arrangements for she adds a postscript :—

"The Cloath for Sheets seems good, but there's no being certain of what tis, until one sees how it wears."

And again she writes :—

"MY DEAREST,—

"Many thanks for your great goodness in making Isabel write from Dunstable ; which I received at dinner at Northumberland House.⁹ Pray bid Bullen preserve a great

⁹ Staying with her daughter the Duchess of Somerset.

many walnuts. I mightily fear this damp weather should give you cold. We are all well and French goes on mightily."

"November 17-18.

"To-day Pen has brought all things except the Hops wch. he promises shall come to-morrow. Pray before you take another Gardiner examin him if he has any aversion to trees, Mr. Wentworth did taste both sorts of Budda wine wch. I think I forgot to tell you. Pray tell me how are all with you and if Lord Finch and you escapes colds. Mr. Wentworth and his lady and son came hither last night and went away this morning, she tells me that she has writt to her brother Finch to get them lodgings, but if he answer her letters no better than he does my daughters' and mine they will not be much nearer. Fox would fain be washing ye green curtains yt are in ye small room; I fancy it will spoyle them and therefore will not let it be done until I have yr. orders."

Letter Concerning her Picture.

"I think my picture not the worse for being unlike wch. could not be said of that wch. my daughter M. (Mary Wentworth) has wch. Sir Godfrey Kneller drew, and I think went to my Lord North was the ugliest thing I ever saw. You should put Mr. W.¹⁰ and my daughter in mind of giving you yours, but where they should site I can't determine."

(They did eventually "site" to Sir G. Kneller for their two portraits hang in the dining room at Burley.)

Again she writes of pictures. "Zeeman is paid but the

¹⁰ Thomas Wentworth became Marquis of Rockingham.

pictures do not fit the frames as you may see by Bridgewater's wch. I have here, however the Painters can lengthen them; for what picture did you design the fifth frame, is it for your own? wch. Richardson drew. I have been at Z. who says he can make ye pictures fit ye frames."

"BURLEY.

"They complain there are so many owls in the Woods that they hinder their taking the few woodcocks that there are there, not without reason, you complain those I sent were lean wch. made me desire you to ask the Dr. (Charles Finch, D.D.) if there is a receipt to fatten them knowing he has a good many choice ones. Last Wednesday my brother Hatton came to Kirby, and dined here yesterday; he was in very good humour, and goes towards London on Thursday."

Lord and Lady Nottingham seem to have been much fussed over the chimneys and sweeps, for she writes to him November, 1718. "I need not tell you how necessary tis' to have the chimneys well swept, you may remember what flakes came down yours: last time I desired my daughter would be inquisitive to know what quantity of soot came down; wh. I take to be the best way of knowing if they do their work cleverly. Pray lett Mr. Cotten be told, the cloath I bought of him about a year and a half ago for shifts, proves a very ill wearing one at wch. I am much vex'd." Later she says, "I have heard no more of ye Chimley Sweepers if they call here I will observe yr. orders."

Lady Mary Wentworth writes to her Mother Concerning the Sweepers, &c.

"November 17-18.

"DEAR MADAM,

"I have now found a sett of Chimley sweepers who are agoing to sweep all our chimleys but I think their price is very high for they wont take under 6d. a chimley for ye upper ones and twelve pence for ye lower ones, if yr. Ladhp. would have them come to Burley at these prices I will be sure to send them.

"I am, dear Madam,

"Your dutiful daughter,

"M. WENTWORTH."

"July 12th, NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE.

"The weather is excessive hot here, and I find tis so every where, thank God it has no evil effects upon you, but I find poor Sir Rodger (her son in law, Roger Mostyn) has suffered by it wth. so bad a sore throat and cold that he was obliged to be blooded and blistered; but was better when he writt and mighty glad to hear you are well after your journey: wch. encourages me to hope and desire that you may take another without prejudice to your health and may make my sister Mary easier, if she has determined it. I hope you continue asses milk, I pray God to bless you and send us a joyful meeting.

"Yours with all obedience.

"A. NOTTINGHAM."

P.S.—"I hope you have your plate out and do not putt the Ladies to eat off pewter, tell me in your next how Lord Aylesford¹¹ does."

¹¹ Heneage Finch, his brother, 1st Earl of Aylesford.

History does not relate if the poor "ladies" were allowed to eat off silver for the future.

"I am glad my sister Mary has no ill account of my sister Finch. If you have them not she can lend you Dr. Brises' sermons upon the Common Prayer wch. you will not find your time lost in reading; tho in the last I think he is a little too severe to those who have no ear for musick. The pills came safe and Nurse Read is resolved to keep the case they came in as long as she lives: because t'was directed to her with yr. hand. Several people in this county who are famous for good drink paint their vessels on the outside wch. they are convinced does not only keep them better, and their iron hoops, but the drink that is in them; my daughter intends to have hers done, a reddish colour they say does best."

In one letter she mentions having sent her boxes to London by the carrier. "Less would have carried my things had it not bin for a nasty Whalebone peticoate," which shows that ladies wardrobes in those days were quite as voluminous as now, she evidently too feared that Lord N., like modern husbands, would not be over pleased at the quantity of luggage. Unfortunately none of Lord Nottingham's letters to his wife have been preserved. In fact very little of his private correspondence exists.

Among Lady Nottingham's hobbies were needlework or rather crewel work, some of the chairs now in the Painted Room were done by her. She seems also to have made paper screens for the following appears in Accounts:—

"1718.—Paid my Lady Nottingham for a paper screen £1.;" and again "Paid to my Lady Nottingham for making up a paper screen £1. 18s. 5d."





⁷⁶⁴²
Nottingham A. Nottingham

DANIEL, SECOND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM, AND ANNE HIS WIFE.
 FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Richardson*.

See 20 June 1907 (83/2)

Apparently she turned an honest penny by making Lord Nottingham buy them, for the money was paid by his agent. Her pocket or pin money also seems to have been plentiful, for the following items appear in accounts :—

"Paid my Lady Nottingham at several times £216."; and in 1714 "Paid My Lady Nottingham £6. 6s.

She, likewise, was doctored in the violent fashion of the day :—

"Mr. Skegg, for bleeding her Ladyship, five shillings."

Her charities, too, were numerous, and among others we find :—

"The Charity School at Oakham £5. from My Lady."

Death of Lady Nottingham.

In 1743 Lady Nottingham died, and was buried in the vault at Ravenstone, Bucks.

In a will of Lord Nottingham's, which he afterwards cancelled, we find the following :—

"To my wife (I leave) Ravenstone except ye wood as an additional jointure, and all ye rents due from ye tenants both of Ravenstone and Daventry. To my wife all my coaches and my coach horses, my house in Bloomsbury Square and all my furniture and household stuff there, all my silver plate, and my silver gilt plate there (except ye 20 gilt water bottles wch are to be heirlooms to my family) and 500 lbs. in money to be paid to her within 3 weeks after my decease by my executors."

Lord Nottingham Succeeds to the Older Title of Winchelsea.

Lord Nottingham was evidently considered the great man of his family, for his cousin Heneage Finch, Earl of Winchelsea, writes in a most humble manner to him.

"EAST WELL, *the 9th of April*, 1699.

"I am my Lord very sensible of my great obligations to yr. Ldpp. for yr. kindness in sending hither to enquire after our health, and for the great honour you have done me in the vindicating the honour of ye King's Lieut.nt. I shall endeavour all I can to merrit ye continuancy of his Maties. grace and favour towards me, so at Barham Downs I shall appear as I ought to do. Yr Ldpp will much oblige me in letting me know whether you think it necessary that I should make ye King an invitation hither or no. When I receive orders from ye Councill Board I shall do ye best service I can as to ye pressing of men for ye Navy. My wife presents her humble service to your Lordssp. and joynes in thanks for yr. kindnesse to us.

"I am Ever My Lord,

"Your most affectionate Cousin
and most Humble Servant,

"H. WINCHELSEA."

Among the illuminated, or rather engraved, manuscripts at Burley are two with a vignette of Charles II. appointing Heneage Lord Winchelsea, Lord Lieutenant of Somerset. They date 1661.

On the death of Lord Winchelsea, Lord Nottingham succeeded to his title and property. Lord Finch writes on the subject to his father:—

"September, 1729. This morning the Earl of Winchelsea dyed, I just now heard it by Legg the undertaker, who came to armytage for the burying of him."

His widow seems to have been a most curious lady, not strictly honest, from all accounts, in her dealings. A violent correspondence wages from Lord Finch, and others, to his father on the subject.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE REFERRING TO HENEAGE, LORD WINCHELSEA AND HIS WIDOW.

Lord Finch to his Father.

"There is a report that my Lady designed to bury the late Lord Winchelsea in ye Abey, designing as I hear to take up his own Mother's bones out of St. Margaret's Church Yard and lay them all together with a little monument over them all, not an expensive one. I therefore, upon this report, wrote to her to tell her I was surprised to hear she would bury an Earl of Winchelsea anywhere but at Eastwell among his Ancestors. I told her to give me her orders and command anything at Eastwell upon this occasion. If she is under any concern where she shall lay her bones, surely if she will dye soon yr. Lordpp. will give her a place in your own vault with that branch of the Family with her, who remains who has been the destruction of it."

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Crayk.

"September, 27, 1729. My Lord, I should have done myself the honour of returning my thanks sooner for yr. Lordpp's letter, but was first waiting to be certainly informed of what Lady Winchelsea intended to do with the late Earl's Corps, and yesterday I was told yt. he was interred in ye Abey on Monday last in ye most private manner. I am told that of late Eastwell House has fallen very much to ruine, and that the Royalties belonging to the Manor of Wye in Dengermarth (indistinct) have been most shamefully neglected, there having been no Bailiff upon the place

KEY TO SIGNATURES.

Facsimile of MSS. now at Burley.

1. Lord Chancellor, first Earl of Nottingham.
2. Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset (The Proud Duke).
3. Lady Finch, wife of the Chancellor.
4. Anne, Countess of Nottingham, first wife of Daniel, second Lord Nottingham.
5. Essex, Countess of Nottingham, first wife of Daniel, second Lord Nottingham.
6. Daniel Finch, eighth Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham.
7. Charlotte Finch, Duchess of Somerset.
8. Lady Charlotte Finch, wife of William Finch (*née* Fermer.)
9. Daniel Finch, second Earl of Nottingham and seventh Earl of Winchelsea.
10. Thomas Finch, second Earl of Winchelsea.
11. Sir John Finch, son of Sir Heneage Finch.
12. Heneage Finch, first Earl of Aylesford.
13. George, ninth Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham.

¹
Hereage Finch
Finch. C.

²
somerſet
Petworth 1727.

³
Elizabeth Finch
1650

⁴
A. Nottingham ⁵
Essex Finch
⁶
Finch

Winchilea & Nottingham

⁷
Somerset ⁸
Petworth C Finch ⁹
Nottingham

¹⁰
Th. Win Chelsea ¹¹
Joan Finch

¹²
Aylesford. ¹³
Winchilſea



since the death of My good Lord; but when Lord Maidstone (Lord Finch), is at Eastwell, whom I hope to have the honour to wait upon his Lordpp will be more fully informed of all. One thing I think not amiss to mention to yr. Lordshipp, that I gave the last Earl all my Good Lord's Stock hay, because I believed it most agreeable to my good Lord's intentions that I should do so, there being a particular meadow of which yr. Lordpp. has only the cutting, which is constantly reserved for that use. The Deer at present I find to be about 900 or more; there were a 100 sold ye last year for stocking a Park, so that ye number that came to ye last Earl is now near 400 less, a great many having dyed ye last severe winter."

Lord Finch to his Father.

In this letter Lord Finch mentions that Lord Winchelsea "left hay for the deer when he dyed and possibly my lady may have a mind to carry off the hay now in the Park, they sold this last year 100 head of deer to stock some Park or other besides what there used to be 1200 head of deer, there is not now above 800, the hard winter and my Lady's short allowance of hay killed many last year."

Oct. 21st, 1729. "I have received the most civil and obliging letter from my lady to assure me that everything shall be delivered up as you desired. She says she is sorry your Lordship was so hasty in making the demand preventing her sending all these according to her intentions unasked. I staid three weeks, she did not stay one before she applyed to Mr. Creyke upon the death of Lord Heneage bating this and one solemn assertion that she had never been in the Library since Earl Heneage's death, and the most

solemn assurance that the least thing has never been removed by her or with her consent or knowledge, which asseveration being made unasked may perhaps create in yr. Lordship's mind a suspicion that perhaps it may not be true. I really believe that she took away all that was necessary or that she thought so at the time her husband dyed, for I have asked Mr. Creyke and he doesn't know of any counterpoint of her marriage settlements of the family since 1640, which I take to be the marriage of Earl Heneage with the Seymour family. My lady having been silent about her hay I cannot say anything of yt. till next post."

It seems Lord Nottingham had many scruples in taking the title of Winchelsea, for his son writes :—" There is creation money attends and is constantly paid to the Earls of Winchelsea, I believe no other Peer now in England receives it but yourself. This issues out of a Fee-Farm rent paid by the honour of Maidstone, it was once my Lord Aylesford's, and he sold it to the Dean and Chapter of Rochester. Now my Lord as to yr. Title it is impossible for you not to take it as it is descended upon you, for tho' you may refuse the acceptance of a title when offered, yet ye acceptance of yr. ancestor has bound you, and people will and must call you Earl of Winchelsea. All you can do is to sign both titles if you please, and it will be looked upon as a piece of affectation not to take it as a title however so much you dislike it that is come to you. Nor can anyone call me but anything but what you are pleased to call me, and therefore I can't call myself Maidstone unless you call me so and whilst you call me Finch, nobody ought to call me anything else. I have been ataqued and told it was affectation in me to call myself Finch, but what I have said before is a sufficient and satisfactory answer. But as to yr.

own case it is unavoidable, you may sign what you please, but people will give you yr. Titles and in all Ceremonys and Processions, etc., you must walk as Earl of Winchelsea, and in the House of Lords and in every place will be called Earl of Winchelsea as you have gone by the name of the Earl of Nottingham, it will make some amends to your family for being forced to sink and lose a title that you have raised to great honour."

Congratulations from the Dean of York.

"YORK, 20th Sept., 1729. Saturday.

"DEAR BROTHER,—

"With our congratulations of the descent of the Earldom of Winchelsea with the estate (I hope at present a good deal at least notwithstanding the old Countess's jointure), to all your former honour and riches which have made a greater figure in the world than ye Title of Winchelsea has yet done, and therefore I am as unwilling to forget that of Nottingham as you can be. There has been vacant in yr. gift now the Rectory on Eastwell and Curacy of Wysworth together with £120 per annum. Wye has been vacant ever since April last, and therefore must be speedily filled up, unless you would let it lapse to my Lord of Canterbury. These preferments would be a good provision for Mr. Ralph Rigby, my curate at Eyam (in case of my death), etc.

"With all our humble services to yourself and Lady Nottingham, and all the Burley family,

"I am yr. most aff. Brother,

"and humble servant,

"EDWARD FINCH."

At the age of eighty-three Lord Nottingham seems suddenly to have become a teetotaller, for his son writes :—

"August 21st, 1729.

"MY LORD,—

"I am extremely glad to hear yr. Lordpp. is so well as to be able to go out in yr. chair in the morning and to bowl in the afternoon. I hope you will not over fatigue yourself. I am very sorry to hear yt. you have for some time left off wine and come into drinking of water. Yr. Lordpp. had lately an instance of the ill consequences of yt method that I must entreat yr. Lordpp. to leave off that practice. I am persuaded that there is no one case wch can be supposed to be the occasion of yr. shortness of breath for which such a regulation can be proper. I take the liberty to mention these things to you because I do very heartily and sincerely wish yr. health and life as I have heretofore. Send the boy down with the dun horse who will bring yr. lordpp. a bottle of medecine from My Lord.

"Yr. Lordpp's most obliged and most dutiful son,

"FINCH."

"I have spoken to Parry to tell Sedgewick he should send down the hogshead of port wine ye last taste."

At the same time Lord Finch writes to his Mother.

"DEAR MADAM,—

"I am extremely obliged to yr. ladyship for giving me so good an account of my Lord's health and wish yt he would prevail himself to drink asses milk, twice of ye day, though it should hinder his business, because his health is more material than any other business. I begg you would let my Lord know I have parted with ye three mares

wch I bought seven years ago of ye Duke of Rutland to Lord Lonsdale he will send for them and I shall give an order for them in order to reduce the number of horses at Burley. I beg My humble duty to My Lord and am Dear Madam,

"Yr. Lordpp's most obedient and dutiful son.

"FINCH."

The Affection of Lord Nottingham's Children to their Father.

All his children seem to have entertained a strong affection for their father. They write from time to time little scraps of gossip, a few extracts of which will not be out of place.

Letter from Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe, to her Father.

"*Jan. ye 4th.*

"MY LORD,—I am now much concerned about Essex (her daughter) who last Saturday appeared to have a great cold and a sore throat and a toothache, since yt. her face swelled and her gums and her tongue is so swelled she can hardly speak yt. tis like a canker, so yt. she can eat nothing but what goes down without chawing, and under her chin ye swelling grows hard and Mr. Bennard say nothing can hinder it breaking, if it was fit to try and prevent it, and yt. troubles me extremely because I fear it will make a scar wch will look a worse thing than tis, for Mr. Bennard assures t'will be of no ill consequences ; but I can't be without many fears till I see her well again.

"I am yr. most obedient daughter and most humble Servant.

"M. ROXBURGHE."

"*Jan. ye 6th.*—Essex is better and her swelling goes off without breaking."

"*Dec. ye 25th.*—If ye. Lordpp could guess what Nicholini's singing is you would come to hear him, for tis much beyond anything you ever heard, tis better than Margerita ever was and people tell me t'is beyond Shepachie. Ye Duke of Roxburghe presents his humble duty to you."

Letter from Lady Southwell to Lord Nottingham.

(A picture of Lady Southwell hangs in the drawing room at Burley. She was a cousin of Lord Nottingham's.)

"LONDON, 25th Nov., 1723.

"We are much surprised with last nights' express of the Duke of Orleans dying last Thursday of an appoplexy, and at 8 at night. It is a very great loss to us, for he was certainly for keeping the peace, and had come into very considerable measures to make the treaty at Cambrey go on. He was the best headpiece in France and could make himself be obeyed. How it will go now is yett uncertain. The King is so very Boyish that t'will give great opportunity of Cabels: and I fear ye Duke of Bourbon has not witt enough or credit sufficient to keep things quiet. To be sure France is naturally very Jacobite, and to be sure all these people will be exceedingly uppish, and be frequently alarming us. I suppose yr. lordpp is now diverting yrself with Bp. Burner's (Burnet) long expected History. Tis the present run of reading but I have yet not heard any one speek well of it.

"I am My Lord yr. Lordpp's most Humble Servant.

"E. SOUTHWELL."

Extract from a Letter of Lord Halifax to his Father-in-Law.
(Mary married William, Marquis of Halifax, and at his death
John, Duke of Roxburghe).

"*April* 9-95.—I must accept of yr. kind offer to bring my wife up to town. It is no small uneasness to mee to bee from her, and therefore by some means or other I hope I shall not be long absent from what I love so well.

"Your Lordship's most obdt. son,
"HALIFAX."

In 1717 the Wentworths having requested Lord N. for his picture, he writes back :—

"SIR,—

"You need no advocate to prevail with me for anything wch may be a gratification unto you. But what is now asked does me much honour, in placing any memorial of me among those of yr. great and noble ancesters, to wch. nothing, no not even my relation to you, gives me so good a title as the true love and esteem wch. I have for you, and therefore when you look upon my picture pray lett it suggest this thought to you yt next to yr own father you have not upon earth a truer friend than myself who am also Dear Sir yr most affec. Father,

"and most faithful and humble servant,
"NOTTINGHAM."

Lord Nottingham to his Daughter Mary (Wentworth).

"DEAR DAUGHTER,—

"Tho I resolved never to sit any more for my picture yt. since yr. husband desires it I cannot, I will not refuse anything much less this wch, would teach him a lesson abt. myselfe, who were he in town would not have escaped

my importunity to continue in my family the memory of one who is so dear to us all. Sir G. Kneller shall draw me as you propose unlesse upon viewing some of his later pictures we find what I have bin told yt. his eyes fail him as well they may at his age; and therefore I will call upon Mr. Wentworth one day this week and we will go together to his house and see his pictures and if we find there is no ground for this report I will sit to him but if there be you shall know it and I will expect to hear from you what other painter you would have employed. I rejoyce to hear from you ye assurance Mr. W.'s letter gives you of the continuance of his great kindness to you, I please myself to think yt. you so well perform yr. duty as in some measure to deserve it etc."

UNSIGNED.

In 1719, Dec. 31st, Lord Granby¹² writes from Belvoir, stating his wish to represent Rutland in Parliament, and requests Lord Nottingham's support. To which Lord N. replies, how pleased he is at Lord Granby's standing for the county and says: "I am confident yr. Lordpp. instead of meeting with ye least opposition will be received with joy by all who have this opportunity of showing their respect and value for you etc."

Lord Granby was elected and represented Rutland from 1719 to 1721.

Of all Lord Nottingham's children, Charlotte, Duchess of Somerset, seems to have been the favourite, and she evidently returned his affection in an equal degree. The following few extracts have been selected from her letters. Charlotte's marriage evidently gave great pleasure to her

¹² Son of John, Second Duke of Rutland.

family. We find the Dean of York writing to congratulate his brother. "We all congratulate you my Dear brother on the marriage of my Lady Charlotte, whose goodness deserves everything fortunate of this kind, and hope she will always find all that comfort in ye high station, which the utmost affection of My Lord Duke can give her." He goes on to say how he hopes that many more suitors of the same kind will find their way to Burley, till there are no more daughters left to be disposed of.

Letters from the Duchess of Somerset to her Father.

"*July ye 18th.* I was last night at ye Court, ye Queen told me with great pleasure yr. lordpp. would come to ye Coronation: I went with my Lady Carteret."

"*March ye 22nd.*—My Lord,—Tho I have before told you what cloathes my brother had bought us, I fancy twill not be disagreeable to you to hear how we passed the Birthday. I went with My Lady Scudmore and her daughter, both the Prince and Princess told me I was very fine, and my cloathes very handsome. The Prince told me he believed I had not been at a birthday these six years, and yt. my Lord Finch and his family were ye finest at Court, which taking in my sister W. (Mary Wentworth) was certainly very true. My brother's own cloathes were very fine and handsome, his coat was a fine green velvet trimm'd with gold and rich gold waistcoat trimm'd with silver, my brother Wills was black velvet embroidered with gold and a handsome crimson and gold waistcoat. Jack was plain but very much taken notice of by ye Princess, who told him she hoped to see him in a gown (which wish was granted, he became a barrister), Lady Scudmore asked me if he was not one of my brothers, upon

which I told her I believe she found him out by his dark complexion. She said it was his ingenious countenance wch was seldom found in any but yr. Lordpp's family, yt she knew him to be of it from yt very thing. I must tell yr. Lordpp. Madame Starenbedghe's opinion of us wch. she has entrusted Lady Burlington with. I begin with myself, because I think considering what Fabrice said of country is very extraordinary, viz. Yt I am mighty well bred and civil, gentle etc. yt Lady Bell seems to have a great deal of witt. Lady Harriot has very fine features but a dark complexion and for Lady Betty as she is fair she likes her the best of ye all. The Duke of Roxburghe and Mr. Kerr Fabrice dined here on Sunday. They commended the Burley ale and cheese prodigiously but Fabrice says yt. everything yt. comes from Burley is perfection. I told him yr. Lordpp. expected him there all last summer, he desired to know ye name of ye County. I told him Rutlandshire ye garden of England, 'o,' he says, 'yt is very well everybody thinks their own is the best, even the Welshmen are for saying it.'

"My Lord,—I received ye favour of yr Lordpp's letter and return a great many thanks for yt and for yr designes of sending me more powders, but as I seldom prescribe yt except it be for ye Duke of Somerset or myself and yt he has not a good enough opinion of my skill to take any of my prescriptions. The Duke of Somerset desires his most humble duty to yr Lordpp and many thanks for yr kind concern for his health, which I thank God is perfectly reestablished, he is also very thankful for the receipts and I daresay will try ym all. We had ye pleasure of my Uncles at dinner yesterday, and as they always find ye newest inventer of glasses made up like spectacles which are a might pretty whim."



*Somerset
Telworth*

CHARLOTTE, DUCHESS OF SOMERSET,
DAUGHTER OF DANIEL, SECOND LORD NOTTINGHAM.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Sir J. Kneller*.

"*Feb. 16th.* Baron Spar told me had he not imagined yt yr Lordpp was coming to town yrself by our joyrney being delayed he should have returned his thanks for yr favours to him at Burley. He entertains everyone with the kind reception he met with there, and told the King he never was so happy, so well pleased or so well entertained in any place in his life. Mr. Fabrice has made us a visit, he supp'd with the King last night and heard great commendations of my brother Ned's conduct and my sister Harriot's eyes wch my Lady Walsingham said were the finest she ever saw in any head. Were I to repeat to yr. Lordpp ye profession my Lord makes both to myself and others of his happiness n me you would be apprehensive he would make me too vain but yr Lordpp may have ye satisfaction of knowing I am as happy in him as yr lordpp could wish me to be. I must assure you that I plainly find his tenderness and affection for me to increase daily and yt yr Lordpp may live to see everyone of yr children as happily disposed of, is ye sincere wish of My Lord. Yr. Lordpp's

"Most obedient and dutiful daughter,

"C. SOMERSET."

Again she writes of her happiness :—"When you do see us together, as I hope in God you will before ye year is out you will be satisfied we are as happy in each other as you could possibly wish us to be."

"I have two patients with agues and I think I have cured both wth. yr. Lordpp's medicine tho one had it above a year.

"*Sept. ye 12th.* Yr. Lordpp. has so good an opinion of asses milk yt I hope you doe take it, and I must beg leave to tell you yt in my neighbourhood were very severe colds attended by feaver have been very rife several have taken

asses milk when ye feaver has been got off and have a great benefit by it."

"PETWORTH. *Feb. ye 25th.* Baron Spar was yesterday at dinner with my brother when yr. lordpp's letter came wth. wch he was much pleased, he said you did him too much honour and yt. my brothers were much to blame for carrying him to Burley for yt not only he himself should never be so happy anywhere else but all people to whom he had related the civil treatment he has received there, wth. the beauties of the place were impatient to go there."

Extract of a Letter to Lord Nottingham from the Duke of Somerset.

"*May 28th.* I presume to send to yr. Lordpp. some things you seemed not to dislike, Venison, Lampreys, and cheese. The season is very favourable to my venison wch. I take the liberty to send yr. Lordpp a part of it, and as you like it I have more wch shall be at yr. service, during yr. continuance in London, you will add to our present happiness, if you and my Lady Nottingham will come to Petworth before your return to Burley, the wayes are good, the days are long, the distance not more than forty miles, yr. own horses may bring you to Guildford, and mine shall from thence bring you hither to gett down to dinner by four o'clock the same day when you will be most heartily welcome to yr Daughter and to yr. Lordpp's most obedient Humble servant and son,

"SOMERSET."

"My most humble duty to My Lady Nottingham."

It is much to be feared that after all these rich dainties "Venison, lampreys, and cheese," Lord Nottingham would be attacked with gout; history does not, unfortunately, relate the result of such good living.

Letter from the Duke of Somerset to His Father-in-Law,
Lord Nottingham.

"I received by yesterdays post a letter from my Lord of Canterbury wherein he sayes that all parties concern'd in the presentation of the living of Pettworth are now content to present Dr. Jelling, and with all hon. very willing the Queen was to gratifye mee in this affaire: my Lord this is the reason of this present trouble to beg Yr. Lordp. that you would be pleased to present my most humble thanks to her Majesty and to assure her that she could not have bestow'd her favours on any one that shall be more ready on all occasions to owne himself the gratefulest and most faithfull of all her subjects. Now My Lord I must rely on your goodnes for a pardon and beg of you to accept of a thousand thanks for all your civilities and especially for this wch I must own entirely by your interest in engaging my Lord Archbishop (to whom I have wrote this post) and in returne I will never be wanting to omitte any opertunity of being very proude to own myselfe

"Your most gratefull and very, very humble servant,

"SOMERSET."

"Pettworth, *June 10th*, 1691."

Lord Nottingham's Expenditure.

Lord Nottingham does not appear to have ever been a very extravagant man, as may be seen from the following extracts:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| Paid my Lord for his pocket | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Given to the Door Keeper of the House
of Lords | 0 | 2 | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| Paid for my Lord's hatt | ... | ... | £0 | 13 | 2 |
| Paid to My Lord on his going to Mostyn | | | 52 | 10 | 0 |
| My Lord for his pockett | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Silver | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Rotherham on my Lord's part for
dividing old Essex writings | ... | | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Paid my Lord on his going to London | | | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Quore in full for my Lord's gold
watch | ... | ... | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| To my Lord himself by postage | ... | | 20 | 4 | 0 |
| Tax for my Lord as President of the
Council | ... | ... | 61 | 16 | 0 |
| Paid to my Lord to give away at Went-
worth Woodhouse | ... | ... | 43 | 0 | 0 |

WRITTEN ORDERS TO HIS SERVANTS.

"Gentm. of ye Horse."

(1) To require all ye servants to come to prayers and to ye beginning of ym. and to give me an account of such as are absent wtht. a wise excuse.

(2) To admonish ym. of drinking and also of swearing and cursing, and as will not refrain from such profanenesse, may be turned out of my House.

For Waiting at Table.

(1) That ye coachmen, grooms and footman bring ye meat from ye kitchen Hatch to ye table at ye backstairs, from whence they must bring it into ye parlour yrself going before ym and ye Clark of ye Kitchen following ym.

(2) No person to sett on a dish but yrselſe nor take it off.

(3) All ye ſaid perſons and footmen to wait at table, and to be diſtributed as yt. none who ſitt at table may want attendance.

(4) None who are thus appointed to wait muſt go out of ye room, but deliver any meſſage to one of ye grooms who for the purpoſe muſt wait in ye paſſage, as alſo to carry down ye diſhes, etc.

(5) This order to be obſerved as well when I am alone as when I have company at dinner.

For Attendance at Other Times.

The Groom of the Chambers or one of ye footmen muſt conſtantly attend in ye upper hall.

And when any company comes to ye Houſe yrselſe ſhould be ready to receive ym. and wait only at their going away.

That none whoſever go into ye Kitchen or rooms belonging to it, nor into ye Dairy, Bakehouſe, waſhouſe, Pantry, but thoſe whoſe proper buſineſſe it is reſpectively to be in their ſeveral places.

And yt yr own Table may alſo be well attended you may require ye footmen and grooms etc. to wait conſtantly as well when none are at table but domeſticks, as when there are ſtrangers.

For yr. own particular buſineſſe, lett nothing of any kind be done by ye ſmith, ſadler, wheelwright or any tradesman belonging to ſtable, wtht. yr previous order, ſetting down for yr own memory what you do direct yt you may know whether their bills be right both in matter and prices, and call in all bills every Saturday night yt you may have ym ready on Monday morning.

Take an inventory of all utensils in ye stable and of saddles etc. in store.

Receive ye corn from ye bailiff and give out to ye stable an allowance weekly.

For the Porter.

(1) You are to keep ye Ct. Yards constantly lockt.

(2) You must not permitt any persons to come up to the house but to stay in ye Lodge till ye clark of ye kitchen be called wch. may be done by ringing a bell.

(3) You are to be carefull not to suffer unknown persons to come in or others without businesse. In this there is need of great discretion, yt you may not needlessly give offence nor on ye other hand expose my house and yards to Pilferers.

(4) You must not fail to lock up ye gates so soon as ye bell rings and afterwards not open ym to any person unlesse to such as are sent abroad by order, give an acct every morning who are so admitted after ye time of shutting ye gates as also of all whom you shall know are lockd out or gett in by indirect ways.

(5) After ye bell has rung to dinner shutt ye gates and come into ye house, and after prayers return to ye lodge.

Orders for ye Groom of ye Chambers.¹⁸

(1) You must be carefull of the furniture, brushing and cleaning every morning that wch is in constant use, and the rest also once or twice in the week or oftener if need be.

¹⁸ These are the only orders not written in Lord Nottingham's own writing.

(2) You must make fires in the hall, parlour, etc., where required keeping clean the hearths and often coming in to repair them, and at night to snuff ye candles.

(3) You are to attend in the Hall when there is Company, and also at other times, but in this last you shall be relieved by ye footman in their turns.

(4) You must take care of all keys in your costody, not to break them, but especially yt they be not lost.

(5) You must bar all the windows, *lock all the outward doors every night when the family is in bed, and rise so early as to open them in time for such as have occassion to come into the house*, and to take care to put out all fires and candles at night.

(6) When any strangers lodge here you must diligently attend ym. taking care that there be fires, candles, etc., in good order, and that nothing be wanting.

(7) You are to *ring the bell for prayers*, and lay the cushens and take them away when done, and to keep them and all the furniture of the chappell (when ready) clean.

Clark of the Kitchen.

Besides ye duties wch you have already bin required to perform such as keeping acct's of ye kitchen, wheat, malt etc., wch must be ready every night by nine of ye clock

(1) You must not suffer any person whtsoever domestick or stranger to come wtin ye kitchen office on any pretence wtsoever, except ye plate boy in ye scullery alone, ye butcher in ye wett larder alone and that only when he brings in meat, and the woodman in ye Bakehouse and kitchen only and that only when he brings wood and coales, wch he must be required to doe early in ye morning before so much as any preparation is made for dressing dinner.

(2) You must deliver out to ye cooks wtever is to be by ym used, and not give ye key to any person wtsoever on any pretence wtsoever. And if either by order or leave you are to be absent you must first see my Lady, into whose hands you shall give ye keys till yr return.

(3) You are to buy no provisions of any kind butt at markt or at ye Porters Lodge, whither you shall be called upon any such occasion.

(4) You are to sitt at ye upper end of ye Servants table and see yt they want nothing yt is fitt for ym nor on ye other hand yt they make no waste, and therefore there shall be no Poor's baskett (lett ye master dispense his own charity his own way).

(5) When there are any servants of strangers to dine with you take care yt they be first placed and treated wth civility.

(6) And take care at all times that there be no rudenesse or disorder, no snatching of meat, nor hastinesse allowed, nor person come so fowl and dirty as to be offensive to their fellow servants, no quarrelling no revelling or scurilous or immodest, or profane discourse, for unlesse you rebuke ym for these things and also unlesse they amend, give acct of such irregularities yt they may be punisht or dismiss, the fault will become yr own and accordingly shall be imputed to you.

(7) You must be careful yt none presume to take anything out of ye dishes before or after they come into the Parlour or from it. You must wait at ye lower end of ye Parlour table yt you may be in My Lady's eye and be directed, when to go for the second course or desert wch must be brought into ye parlour in like manner.

(8) You must take care that ye Stewards table be also

well served, and ye cooks prepare for it decently and in good manner.

(9) Fail not to have ye dinner ready by 12 of ye clock and lett the bell be then rung and dinner sent up, likewise supper at 7.

(10) Lett no locks or keys be ever made without my expresse order, no nor any other work be done without yr direction yt you may know whether ye bills be right in matter and value and call in all bills every week yt they may be ready on Monday morning, for no bill shall be allowed to you or any man yt is of an older date than one week, etc.

Bailiff.

Take account of ye stock in ye grounds.

And for ye future buy and sell as you judge expedient and give acct. of what is sent to ye Slaughter house weekly.

The pasture keeper must be observed and admonished for he is negligent.

Buy in ye corn of all kinds and deliver.

Oates and beans to ye Gentm. of ye Horse.

Wheat to ye baker.

Malt keep yrself and deliver to ye Brewer as he uses it giving me an account of it weekly.

Attend and wait at table and also in ye Hall when I have company except when ye necessary businesse requires you elsewhere.¹⁴

¹⁴ These orders have been put in this volume as they give us an insight into domestic affairs in those days, and also show us Lord Nottingham's character in another light. He seems to have been a strict but just master, and also a great autocrat.

His Appearance.

Lord Nottingham, from his pictures at Burley as a young man, is rather good looking. Later in life his face seems to lengthen ; it has a gloomy and somewhat morose expression.

In his bust by Rysbruck, now in the hall at Burley, he is represented with curly hair and an under-hung jaw. It is, however, a clever and powerful face. But it is from history and contemporaries we can find the best descriptions of him.

From the "Gentleman's Magazine."

"All the Finches" (says Dunster) "have been famous for their witt and learning ; and this noble Earl is a master of eloquence, yet his speeches in the Parliament were never known to flatter with secret glosses of double or reserved sense, and when his name is traduced (as has been the fate of best favourites) his innocence bears him out with courage. He is a peer of strict and remarkable justice : an excellent Paymaster and a most accomplished gentleman."

Macay represents him "in his habits and manners very formal, with an exterior air of business and application enough to make him very capable. His Polemic compositions are impopular to selection." Macay also says, "he was made Secretary of State to oblige the church, of which he set up for a mighty champion." From this rather carping account one turns with pleasure to that written by Macaulay. "Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham, a nobleman whose name will occur frequently in this History of three eventful reigns, sprang from a family of unrivalled forensic eminence." He then gives a long dissertation on the Chancellor, which has been given in his life. "A considerable part of the

moral and intellectual character of this great magistrate had descended with the title of Nottingham to his eldest son. This son, Earl Daniel, was an honourable and virtuous man. Though enslaved by some absurd prejudices, and though liable to strange fits of caprice, he cannot be accused of having deviated from the path of right in search either of unlawful gain or unlawful pleasure. Like his father he was a distinguished speaker, impressive, but prolix and too monotonously solemn. The person of the Orator was in perfect harmony with his oratory, his attitude was rigidly erect : his complexion was so dark that he might have passed for a native of a warmer climate than ours : and his harsh features were composed to an expression resembling that of a chief mourner at a funeral. It was commonly said that he looked more like a Spanish Grandee than an English gentleman. The nicknames of Dismal, Don Dismalo and Don Diago, were fastened on him by Jesters and are not yet forgotten. He had paid much attention to the science by which his family had been raised to greatness, and was for a man born to rank and wealth, wonderfully well read in the laws of his country. [Note.—Lord Nottingham writing of his sons says : ‘I hope some of them will study ye Law and particularly, Daniel and William, the first will find it very useful in his own affairs, and in his publick station as a Peer, very necessary, and to wch I may say he is obliged in conscience, For he is a Judge.’] He was a devoted son of the church, and showed his respect for her in two ways, not usual among those lords who in his time boasted that they were her special friends, by writing tracts in defence of her dogmas and shaping his private life according to her precepts,” &c.

Death of Lord Nottingham.

Jan. 21st, 1729.—Lord Nottingham died at Burley and was buried with his Father in the vault at Ravenstone, Bucks. It is rather touching that he preferred to be buried there in preference to Eastwell, where his ancestors lay.

With him dies the most important man of his name ; historians and politicians of our day may criticise and find fault, but in this account an effort has been made to give a true and faithful portrait.

“ He was a man take him for all in all.
I shall not look upon his like again.”

In his private life we see, from his letters, a kind father, and loving, faithful husband. While in his moral character he appears irreproachable. But what shall we say of his greatest work, and one by which he will be remembered in ages to come ? Will not gratitude and admiration fill the hearts of his descendants, as they gaze upon the magnificent Palace which his fine taste and riches have left.

“ Thou in our wonder and astonishment
Hast built thyself a lifelong monument.”





Nottingham

BUST OF DANIEL, SECOND EARL OF NOTTINGHAM,
AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY Rysbrack.

THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF
LORD NOTTINGHAM.





THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF LORD NOTTINGHAM.

A short account is given of each, for convenience sake the daughters are described first, and the eldest son, Lord Finch, last.

I.—MARY, born 1677, the eldest daughter of Lord Nottingham by his first wife Essex (Rich), married, 1695, first, William, Marquis of Halifax, and on his death, John, Duke of Roxburghe. Her picture hangs at Burley in the small drawing room, between those of her two husbands.

The portrait of the Duke of Roxburghe is a pleasing picture, and he must have been a good-looking man. That of Mary is of no great merit, and is sadly out of repair. Her appearance is not particularly taking. She has the dark hair and eyes of her family, and a somewhat sly expression. There are very few of her letters among the papers, so little can be said of her life.

ESSEX, eldest daughter by the second marriage, was born February 29th, 1687, near Kensington (possibly Kensington Palace, or the house that then stood there). In 1703 she married Sir Roger Mostyn, Bart. He seems to have been a highly favoured son-in-law, and writes many letters

to his wife's father concerning the selling of his timber, the building of ships, and the selling of coal. It is to be inferred that he owned mines and ships. Lord Nottingham and Sir Roger also seem to have done a little bargaining together, for among the household expenses occurs the following: "Paid to Sir Roger Mostyn for claret, hay and straw, £4. 18s. 2d. Given to Joseph, Sir Roger Mostyn's footman, £1. 1s. 6d. Paid to Sir R. Mostyn the money received for Lady Essex, January 13th. Christening fees for Sir Roger Mostyn's child, £3. 4s. 6d." May 23rd, Essex Mostyn died of smallpox, also one of her little children who was born about that time. From her picture which hangs in the saloon at Burley she must have been a pretty woman, with dark hair and eyes. There are two pictures of her, one as a little girl with her brother Heneage (who died). She is also depicted in the painted room with the same brother. Sir Roger, judging from his portrait, was a very good-looking man.

CHARLOTTE, her father's favourite daughter, was born at Cleveland House, 1693. Queen Mary, wife of William of Orange, stood godmother to her, and stayed with the Nottinghams for the occasion. (Probably at Kensington House.)

In 1725, Charlotte married Charles Seymour, commonly called the "Proud Duke of Somerset." He had been formerly married to Lady Elizabeth Percy, of the great house of Northumberland, an heiress. She is famous for having been married three times before she was sixteen. The Duke apparently considered himself too great a man to go to Burley himself to choose his wife, and so sent his chaplain, Mr. Hutton, afterwards Archbishop of York, and later of Canterbury. In some quaint letters, now at

Petworth, he describes to his lord the various daughters of the House, calling them books.

Through the courtesy of Lord Leconfield, I am permitted to reproduce the letters in this volume.

**Extracts from the Letters of the Chaplain to the Duke of
Somerset at Petworth House, Sussex.**

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE, etc., etc.,

"I was met at Stamford by my friend Mr. E. would have me home with him that evening to B. where I lay yt night and ye last, and was entertained with much civility. It is a fine Place, and there are many things wch would fall under the observation of a Person of greater curiosity and a politer taste than myselfe; but your Grace will pardon one of my education and turn, if I own yt I was taken most with ye Library: it is a fine large room well furnished with bookes, and among them there are four upon ye subjects of Religion and morality, wch as I had never seen ym before engaged my attention very much, and wch. for want of knowing ye Authors names I shall describe to yr Grace by ye Rankes they stand in upon ye classes, that in case your Grace should ever happen to be called that way, you may ye more easily find them.

"The first is marked L. C., Edit 30.

"The second is marked L. B.—e, Edit 26.

"The second is marked L. B.—c, Edit 26.

"The third is marked L. H., Edit 22.

"The fourth is marked L. B.—7, Edit 20.

"They all agree very much in ye subject and in a certain politeness of stile; and a vein of good humour appears throughout them all; but what makes ye difference

(as far as I could judge) that the stile of L. C. and L. B.—c is improved with a degree of learning, wch is wanting in ye other two; and these differ again from one another in this, that the stile of L. C. is more even and uniform, the sense stronger, and containing finer rules of Aconomy; whereas L. B. is brighter and has more flights of Witt; The stile of L. H. is distinguished by a certain degree of skill in Geometry and Mathematicks, and several points are prettily enough illustrated by similitudes from painting and Limning. L. B. has ye advantage in ye fineness of ye paper and ye beauty of impression, but ye stile of it is not imbellished either with learning or Mathematicks as ye others are. The Master of ym takes great delight in ye perusall of ym all, but ye most in L. C., for ye account of wch I was obliged to my friend, the booke being left in London so that I did not see it, but it is expected down next week to compleat ye sett. They are not any of them set off with any uncommon outward ornaments and L. C. has ye least; but is generally most esteemed by those who have had opportunity of frequently perusing it. I hope your Grace's goodness will excuse the impertianence of this long account, wch. my love of bookes has drawne me into; I shall be always very proud of receiving your Grace's commands and am wth grateful Duty (My Lord),

“Your Grace's most obliged and
most obedient Servant,
“MATT: HUTTON.

“NEWARK, *Aug. 2nd*, 1725.”

Extract from Letter No. 2. (From the Chaplain to the Duke.)

"MARSHE, *Aug. ye 13th*, 1725.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

"I have this day ye Honour of your Grace's letter," etc. "I was very glad to hear that both my letters came safe, and that ye account of ye Bookes wch. I saw at B. was not disagreeable to yr Grace, but must humbly ask pardon for not being so clear upon that subject as I might have been, wch was owing to my contracting ye names of ye classes for brevity's sake. The first wch I marked C. is Charlotte, the second Bell, the third Harriot, and ye fourth Betty; these as well as ye other classes being distinguished by men's or women's names. The Booke marked wth ye name of ye class Charlotte was left by ye owner with his Son in London, and expected to be brought home by him as about this time; who was to take this journey in a great measure to bring this Booke safe, He (his Son) being very choice of it, and not desining to make any long stay at B. The Chaplain told me yt he talked of having this Booke and one of ye others with him in Town some time next winter, but he did not know whether the Owner would consent to it, he not designing to come to Town again except upon special businesse; and in ye country he loves to have his Bookes always about him, what conversation I had with ye Master and Mistress was at dinner and supper on Sunday, when they both enquired in a particular manner after your Grace's health and drank it to me, ye rest of ye discourse turn'd altogether upon common and indifferent subjects. My friend Mr. E. in ye course of our conversation, ask me whether your Grace had given over buying of

bookes, and mentioned C. and H. as very well worthy of your Grace's purchaseing, but this was in a pleasant manner; and I did not give him ye least room to suspect that your Grace had an intention to lay out any more money that way, etc.,

“My Lord Yr Grace's most obliged
and most obedient servan,
“MATT: HUTTON.”

Letter from R. Nash to the Duke Concerning the Ladies
Finch.

“LONDON, *Aug. 17th*, 1725.

“MY LORD,

“In obedience to your Grace I made a visitt to my friend, who I found full of the praise of C. and H. as to conduct and temper but seems partial to the latter, as of the more cheerful disposition. I arraign'd them of the follyes of the which she justified as far as discretion and good sense could guide nature. I since made a visitt to mrs Southwell who is no bad judge of the world and as she and I often laugh att the Town between ourselves, after several other people, I fell on them, and all I could learn from her was, that they were fitter (if I may use a jockey term) for breeds than to run a race in the world, and would be good for nothing but good wives, C. seems to be her favourite;” etc.

“That content and pleasure may be the constant attendance of every hour of your life is the hourly wish and prayer of

“Yr Grace's devoted slave,
“R. NASH.”

Letter from R. Nash to the Duke. (From Mr. Nash, Master of the Ceremonies at Bath.)

"BATH, *Sept. 12th*, 1725.

"MY LORD,

"I had the honour of your Grace's of this morning, what Mrs S. meant by preferring C. for the better Domestick I take to be, that she is more dull and phlymatick, and wants that vivacity H. is mistress of, I have since been conversant of severall Ladys of their acquaintance and the generall voice is of the side of H. for great humour and sweetness of temper, and indeed I am enclined to believe them. There is another obstacle to C. wch is she is an old maid, I fear too much so, to answer all the ends I wish ; My Lady Phill Pratt is extravagant in commendations of H. ; wch is not common for one pretty one to praise another, and now My Lord, since you comand me I will give you my own opinion I have much more conversed with H. than C. ; so cannot make a just comparison by what I could find in H. she is of an even temper, good sense and a vast deal of spiritt, pleasant without pride or affectation, and indeed her only fault is her complexion. C. has many good qualityes would make a good mistress of a family, and perhaps would take more Domestick care than H. but thats out of the question, for a cheerful companion is the chiefest pleasure of life, My good Lord, if my sincerity makes me say anything not agreeing wth your opinion, who are too good a Judge not to find out where I may be mistaken, I am sorry Lord Thomas¹⁵ does not come and wish he may repent it. We have scurvy storys of Sir William

¹⁵ I imagine Lord Thomas to be Lord Thomas Seymour, probably a brother of the Duke's.

Windham's¹⁶ health wch I hope are false, and now I beg your Grace will doe me the honour to believe me,

"Yr Grace's most sincere Obedient Slave,

"R. NASH."

Letter from Mr. Edwards, Lord Nottingham's Chaplain, to Mr. Hutton (the Duke's Chaplain).

"DEAR FRIEND,

"Yours of the first instant I have communicated to My Lord Nottingham, and have received form His Ldp. a very distinct and full answer both with regard to himself and Lady Charlotte, wch I will give you as near as I can in his words. His Lordship told me, yt he was very proud of his grace's good opinion of his Family, and should be well pleased with the honour of his allyance, and His Lordship does not doubt of his Grace's generous treatment of one whom he thinks fitt to make his wife, and therby advance her to so high a rank, to which the fortune his Lordship can give her, is in no degree suitable, so he presumes it has no part of ye consideration which induced his Grace to think of her.' And as for her Ladyship's thoughts of what is mentioned of His Grace's age, My Lord told me, she is so far from thinking it an objection, yt she had much rather marry a Man much above her in years, than any person younger than herself yt it must be very agreeable to any young woman yt. she is preferred before others whose circumstances were much greater to recommend them to his Grace's choice. It was my fault that you had not this answer a Post sooner, but because of the strict caution you gave me, to keep the affair secret, I neglected some oppor-

¹⁶ Sir William Windham had married Lady Catherine Seymour, a daughter of the Duke's by his first marriage.

tunities of waiting upon His Lordship for fear of being interrupted.

"I am Dear Sir Your most affectionate

"Friend and most Humble Servant,

"W. EDWARDS.

"BURLEY, *Dec. 11th*, 1725."

Letter from the Duke of Somerset to Lord Nottingham.

"LONDON, *Dec. 23rd* 1725.

"MY LORD,

"As letters doe very often require to bee Explained by other, I have therefore to avoyd giving yr. Ldpp. that trouble and Rather choose to send Mr. Hutton to acquaint Lordp. with my resolution on the Subject matter of the Particular correspondence which has lately passed between Mr. Edwards and him. I have very fully instructed him to discourse your Lordp. upon that whole affair, the proposals he will offer of Pinn money, and jointure I doe hope, will be accepted, and will make your Daughter easy and content, If it be soe, then it shall be the thought of my life to make her happy in all things else. I doe not ask a particular sum of money to bee given with her because I will be content with the sum you intended to give her, I cannot doubt you will doe less now. But whether I am or not to be so Happy, I doe begg all these things may be kept with the strictest secrecy not to lett any more be known than that I am with very great truth and Respect Your Lordp's

"Most obedient Houmble Servant,

"SOMERSET."

It cannot be said that this correspondence puts the Duke in a very agreeable light. He seems to have em-

ployed strange means to find out all about the Ladies Finch. In spite of all the recommendations of Harriot, he chose Charlotte.

Lord Nottingham in these letters would appear rather, in a worldly light, as if he wished to sell his daughters to the highest bidder. But the following from a letter of his will show that this was not the case.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Nottingham to His Brothers.

"In the marriage of my Daughters their own particular happiness is to be chiefly aimed at."

The marriage evidently gave her family great pleasure, as the Duke was a great *parti* in all ways. From which it is to be seen that parents differed little from those of our day. Many letters of congratulation are now at Burley with fulsome praises of the affianced pair. Somerset was not a man of attractive character. Macaulay describes him as a "man in whom pride of birth and rank amounted almost to a disease."

Lord C. Dover speaks of him as "an absurd, vain and pompous man." He is said to have once fined one of his daughters £20 for having dared to sit down in his presence. Another story illustrates his ridiculous pride even more fully. It is recorded that poor Lady Charlotte ventured one day to kiss him on the forehead, upon which he turned round saying, "Madam, my first wife never dared to take such a liberty, and *she was a Percy*." So the poor wife who *was only a Finch* must have felt completely snubbed. It is hardly to be imagined she took such a liberty again. Notwithstanding the treatment she received from this autocrat she truly loved her "Dear Lord," and writes frequently to

her father of his goodness to her, and her great happiness in her married life. From this it is to be supposed the Duke was painted blacker than he really was, or her sweetness of character conquered in the end. Charlotte died in 1773.

Letters from the Duchess of Somerset to her Father.

"Feb. ye 9th.

"MY LORD,—

"Yr. strict commands to me to restrain those marks of Weakness yt. every remembrance of yr. Tender Affection for me made me liable to discover was ye only Motive Yt. could make me refrain from Expressing ye Gratefullness Since I have and shall for ever retain of Yr. Ldpp's kind treatment of me and affectionate concern for me thro, out ye whole course of my life and particularly by directing me in a choice from which I have nothing to bear but too great Prosperity unless I could be so wanting to myself as well as in My duty to My Lord as to forget Ye excellent Instructions You have given me for ye future Conduct of my life and those many and great Obligations Wch. he has laid upon me. I am so sensible yt. every circumstance of my happiness will be an addition of Joy to Yr. Ldpp yt. I cant forbear acquainting you that I have had ye most obliging and most Respectful letters from all My Lord's Sons and Daughters yt. could have been writ, and in there Letters to My Lord they express great Satisfaction in the choice he has made. I should be glad to know what ye D. of M. says to yr. Ldsp. upon this occasion; to the Duke of Somerset she says she does not question but yt. from ye character she does me the honour to say I have, he will be very happy and yt. she has always had an Opinion of My Ld. Nottingham's Daughters in General tho. My Lord

tells me her recommendations were more confined therefore if in yt. she was sincere I hope she will take ye advice he gave her thereupon to mate her Favourite wth. her Grandson wch. he thought wld. be much more Suitable Yn. what she proposed to him. If she Would do yt. I might hope to find Yt. Ldpp in London : tho' I am not certain when My Lord Proposes to be there this place is so delightfull and what My Lord likes so much yt. I must own I have no thought of anything in London but Yr. Ldpp. and my friends at Bloomsbury, and were it now summer I should ask ye pleasure and honour of seeing You at Petworth (where are Building and alterations all made by My Lord himself and all wch I am satisfied you wld. like and approve) ye only additionall happiness I could possibly have. The Duke of Somerset presents his Humble Duty to Yr. Ldpp. and my Mother and bids me tell you My writing to You prevents him doing so ys. post. I beg my Humble Duty to My Lady and yt. she will forgive me yt. I dont write to her ys. Post, but I really have time for no more than to assure yr. Ldpp. yt. I am,

" Yr. most obedient

" Most dutiful Daughter,

" C. SOMERSET."

" Petworth, *Feb. ye 9th.*

" Yt. I may intirely observe yr. orders in being very particular, I must tell you in ye style of a newspaper yt. there is great rejoicing and ringing of bells wth. out ceasing ; So yt. I find yt Parish approve My Lord's choise, as he made it, unsight unseen."

Her devotion to Burley is said to have been great. This is most likely true, as in many of her letters she speaks of her old home with the greatest affection. In one of her

pictures she has the house represented in the background. There are altogether three portraits of her at Burley. One three-quarters length, one full-length, and one sitting with a little baby on her lap. She was tall, but not exactly beautiful; a fair skin, but black hair and eyes, and an amiable expression. There were also two portraits of her husband; in each he appears decidedly haughty, but was a somewhat fine-looking man. In the book room is a picture of her two eldest little girls, Lady Frances and Lady Mary Seymour, rather dear little people, in long velvet dresses with low necks. (They were afterwards two of the greatest heiresses in England.)

ANNE, third daughter, born 1695. Died young, 1711; she succumbed to the violent treatment of the day. In accounts the following information is found: "Given to Nan Chester for her attendance on Lady Anne, £1. 10s. Mr. Tipping for the hire of a coach to carry Lady Anne to Ravenstone" (her burial place). This is all the information concerning her—a truly meagre account.

ELIZABETH, fourth daughter, born 1698. Died 1704. Buried at Ravenstone.

CECILIA ISABELLA, fifth daughter, born 1700. Died 1701. Buried at Ravenstone.

MARY, sixth daughter, born at Burley in 1701. In the accounts the following expenses occur for her:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Paid by My Lady's orders to Lady Mary | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Lady Mary, half-year quarter to Lady | | | |
| Day | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Pair of buckles for Lady Mary, 1716 ... | 2 | 8 | 0 |

In 1716 Mary married Thomas Wentworth, who afterwards became Marquis of Rockingham. In accounts the details are given of the expenses of her marriage. "Paid My Lord to give Lady Mary on her marriage £43. Paid Mr. Wentworth for his portion for Lady Mary £5,000. Paid the six fiddlers that played at the wedding £9. 13s. 6d. To the four fiddlers that played on Mr. Wentworth's birthday £1. 4s."

Mary Wentworth died in 1761. There are a few of her letters among the papers at Burley, but they are of no particular interest. Her picture and that of her husband hang in the dining room. In appearance she is dark, like most of the daughters of this family. She was very tall and her husband extremely small; the painter, to make them look the same height in their portraits, made him stand on raised ground.

HENRIETTA or HARRIOT, seventh daughter, born in 1702. Each daughter had a reduction in allowance, in which, no doubt, Lord Nottingham showed wisdom. The younger members received half, or even a quarter, of what their elders had. The following appear in accounts:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Lady Harriot half year's allowance to | | | |
| Lady Day | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Cotty, a fee for Lady Harriot ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Skegg for bedding her ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Lady Harriot, on her going to Scar- | | | |
| borough | 21 | 0 | 0 |

Luckily for her, she was strong and survived the treatment of her physicians. In 1723 she married William, Duke of Southampton and Cleveland. Few particulars are to be

found respecting her. She died in 1761 without children. She is represented in a picture with one of her sisters, Elizabeth. This portrait is in the smoking room.

ELIZABETH (Betty), eighth daughter, born in 1704. Like her sister she received £30 a quarter. She married Sir William Murray, created Earl of Mansfield, a famous lawyer. There is a monument to him in Westminster Abbey. She died 1774.

Frances, ninth daughter, born 1705. She was delicate, and succumbed early to the Spartan treatment of that time. Only this melancholy information is to be found respecting her :—

“By charges on the burial of Frances

| | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| “Undertaker bill | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| The duty to St. Giles church ... | 1 | 19 | 4 |
| Journeys, expenses, etc. | 3 | 11 | 4” |

MARGARET, tenth daughter, born 1706, was equally unfortunate. She died 1715, and was buried at Ravenstone.

Only this grievous news respecting her : “Dr. Colly, another fee for Lady Margaret £2. 3s.” (He had evidently received many before.) “John Ransen for letting her blood 5s.” It is not therefore surprising that she afterwards died.

The dates of the births of the younger one is not recorded; one can only imagine the task grew wearisome.

MARTHA, eleventh daughter, seems to have been dressy, for the only records of her are :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| " Lady Martha Finch, viz. For an apron | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| A quilted petticoat | 1 | 18 | 6" |

MARY, twelfth daughter, is again an unlucky person ; only the memorandum of her death remains to us :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| " Given Nurse Show for her attendance | | | |
| on Lady Mary | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Charges on the funeral of Lady Mary | 24 | 2 | 8" |

Considering the number of daughters, the surviving ones cannot be said to have done badly for themselves. It is not surprising either that they, in conjunction with their mother, were able to work the chairs now in the Painted Hall.

The Sons of Lord Nottingham.

I.—HENEAGE, eldest son by second marriage, caught smallpox at a very early age, which stopped his growth. In the account of him written by Lord Nottingham in the old Prayer-book, he says he grew crooked, lost his nerves, became blind and stammered. In 1701 he died. "He was a very beautiful child. Sometimes he would say yt. in heaven he should see, and I trust in Christ Jesus, who giveth sight to the blind, yt he who hath suffered so many infirmities of ye flesh and escapt ye polutions of it, shall with ye pure be admitted to ye beatific visions of God."

He is buried at Ravenstone. There is a picture of him

at Burley with his sister Essex. He is also depicted with her on the walls of the Painted Hall.

DANIEL, the second son, who on his brother's death became heir, is described for convenience' sake later.

WILLIAM, the third son, was one of the successful members of his family. Born in 1690. King William of Orange stood godfather, and Queen Anne, then Princess Anne, was one of the godmothers. If success depends on the grandeur of godparents, William started well in life. From all accounts he would also appear to be the favourite son. There are no less than six pictures of him at Burley. In appearance he is nothing remarkable, but doubtless had plenty of brains to make up for it. From accounts are the following items :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| "1707. Mr. William Finch received for | | | |
| his French master... .. | 5 | 18 | 8 |
| Entrance fee ten months to July 8th, 1708." | | | |
| "Mr. William's cloathes" are also | | | |
| charged | 3 | 17 | 0 |
| "Mr. William Finch on his going to | | | |
| Oakham | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto for his pocket | 1 | 16 | 0" |

Goes to Oxford.

Later his education was continued at Oxford, for we find Mr. William and Mr. John for their charges on the journey from Burley to Oxford, £1. 10s.

Enters the Middle Temple.

Like most of the family, William, on leaving Oxford, became a lawyer. Thus from accounts :—

| | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|----|
| "Mr. William Finch for his admission to the Temple : | | | | | | | |
| To the House | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| Admittance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Treasurers Clark | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Butlers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| For Junior Butlers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Stamps | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |

Extracts from His Mother's Letters Concerning Him.

It is probable about this time (1718) that Lady Nottingham writes to her husband about William :—

"Wm. is very pleased that you like his writing, I wish you would give leave for him to have a peruke for now he wears no powder, tis very visible that the top of his head is almost bald."

Soon after it appears William has contrived to offend his father, for she writes: "Wm. was very sensible of his fault in the two superscriptions and will not again repeat it, etc. He's willing to stay for a perriwig until he sees you and by that time I believe it t'will be yet more needed."

"William has gone to Hampton Court to-day, his servant told me his venison was eat yesterday. My Sister Finch tells me that which was sent to her was very fatt and sweet."

Goes Abroad to Learn Languages.

William did not remain long at the Bar, he may not have been successful in that line. From accounts we find: "Mr. Finch on his going to France, 20 pistolls £17." His reason for travelling was his father's desire he should enter the Diplomatic Service. He writes June 16th from Geneva: "I took the liberty in one of my letters to yr. Lordship to mention the desire I have of removing from Geneva but certainly shall leave that and everything else that regards me to yr. Lordship's pleasure. The time that I have been here has been employed in reading French History and the treatises of peace yr. Lordshpp ordered me to read. Mezerei's History of France, Devial's of the Civil wars, Le Père d'Orleans' History of England, and a good many other works, that Mr. Sweden ye Professor has recommended to me."

Sent Envoy to the Hague.

In 1726 William was sent as Envoy Extraordinary to the States General, to confer with the States Deputies at the Hague, on the occasion of the Hanoverian Treaty. On the King's birthday William gave a magnificent entertainment to the States Deputies who signed to the Accession, also to the Ministers of the several Powers concerned in the Treaty.

EXTRACTS FROM ACCOUNTS.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. |
| "Paid for Mr. William's Warrant and | | | |
| stamp at My Lord Chancellor's Office | | | |
| on Mr. William's going to Sweden | 12 | 14 | 0" |

This appointment gave his parents great pleasure. Lord Nottingham writes :—

“DEAR SON,

“I am glad to find from yrs. of the 19th. yt you are safe arrived at ye Hague, etc. I pray God to bless you in all ye negotiations,” etc.

“I am your most affectionate Father

“NOTTINGHAM.”

His mother also writes :—

“*Dec. ye 17th, 1722.*

“DEAR WM.,

“I am glad the powders came safely, I hope another year they will be had easier and then I shall make a large quantity. I hope you have not cut the cheeses yet, for eating them too soon will disgrace my Dairy and they will be much better if kept at least three weeks longer, etc.

“I pray God to bless you,

“Yr. affectionate Mother,

“A. NOTTINGHAM.”

Later she writes :—

“My Uncle Hatton is dead, upwards of 85 years old, this would be three months mourning for you here, but not with black gloves or liveries put into mourning.”

Lord Finch kindly sends his brother a few wigs by a friend, John Balaguer, who writes : “I saw my Lord Finch, he told me he had got two periwigs for you, I promised I would send them by the next Courier that is despatched to you. When a Messenger shall be despatched to you, I shall give him the wigs I have for you, and half a dozen larger silver spoons, which Lord Finch sent to me yesterday.”

Enters Parliament.

On leaving the Hague, William became member of Parliament for Cockermouth²⁶ in Cumberland. The Duke of Somerset writes to Lord Nottingham on the subject :—

"Jan. ye 25th, 1727.

"MY LORD,

"I have a letter from Mr. Christian, a Chancellor of Law now at Cockermouth, managing my interest there, to elect yr. Lordpp's son William, but it does oblige me to ask yr. Lordpp. one question, whether you have qualified him by settling £300 per annum upon him, etc.

"I am yr. Lordpp's most obedient and
dutiful son and humble servant,

"SOMERSET."

To which Lord Nottingham replies :—

"I have this day upon the receipt of your letter executed a Deed granting him an annuaty or rent charge upon my Mortgage of Hambleton in Rutland of £300 a year during life, wch. is as much as ye act requires for his qualification as Member of Parliament. May 9th, 1729."

William was elected for Cockermouth, though how long he remained in Parliament is not stated.

A part of Hambleton still goes with the Burley property. The Mortgage for William's allowance is no doubt with the numerous other Papers in the house.

William Marries.

In 1729 William married Lady Anne Douglas, daughter of the Duke of Queensbury. The settlements seem to have

²⁶ Cockermouth was the property of the Duke of Somerset and still goes with the Petworth Estates, being now the property of Lord Leconfield.

caused considerable excitement between the two parties concerned. The Duke would appear greedy; it is possible he did not consider the marriage good enough for his daughter, and was therefore anxious to get as much profit financially as possible for her. Lord Granville kindly acts as spokesman in the matter, and writes:—

“The Duke of Queensbury expects yt my Lord Nottingham shall upon receiving £15,000 written, settle £1,500 a year upon Mr. William Finch and ye longest liver and upon ye first and every other son of ye marriage, etc. And also that My Lord Nottingham shall give his word of honour to ye Duke of Queensbury yt he will not persuade Dr. Finch (Charles Finch, his uncle) to alter his intentions wch. he has declared in favour of Mr. Wm Finch, as one of ye younger sons of Lord Nottingham, what money Mr. Finch has of own acquired shall be settled as ye Duke of Queensbury shall think most advisable.” (Lord N. was likewise to settle his estate upon Lord Finch and his heirs male in default of this upon the descendants of William.) “I had some difficulty wth. ye Duke of Queensbury to renew again our Treaty I wish I may succeed since I think it is for ye interest of a Family I love and honour.”

“I am your Lordship’s most Humble Servant,

“GRANVILLE.”

Later Lord Granville writes: “Since I did myself ye honour to write to you I have been very ill with a feaver, but with ye assistance of ye Bark I was able to attend our Solemnity at St. George’s Church last Tuesday.” He continues to write that the Marriage Settlements of William are not decided upon, and adds, “I can’t but be very much surprised yt. your Lordship who is so wise and knowing in busnesse will not make yt. matter easie some way or other.”

Later there is yet another letter from Lord Granville still fussing over the legacy William expected from his uncle. Lord Nottingham, it appears, said he should not recommend him to the "charity of his uncle." In consideration of £15,000 Lord Nottingham was to "settle the mortgage of Foulness in Essex upon his son and Lady Anne" as a jointure. It is gratifying to find after all this trouble the marriage took place. After fourteen years of married life Lady Anne died, leaving no children. Lord Nottingham seems to have worried a good deal over his sons and their various careers, for Lord Finch writes in a consoling manner to him on the subject.

"You have two sons who have already succeeded well, one beyond what was possible for him to expect in point of profit, and in reputation equall to the wishes of his best friends."

The two sons referred to are William and Edward.

William is appointed Vice-Chamberlain to George II.

In 1741 William became Vice-Chamberlain to George II., and at the same time becoming a member of the King's Privy Council at Kensington. In 1746 he married Lady Charlotte Fermor, second daughter of Thomas, Earl of Pomfret. Her mother occupied some position about the Queen,²⁷ and wrote countless Diaries concerning her life at Court, and her travels. As they do not, however, concern Burley or her daughter, it is unnecessary to give them here. Lady Charlotte Finch was a great-granddaughter of the famous Judge Jeffreys, which is the reason for his picture being at Burley with that also of his son. The life of William Finch and Lady Charlotte will be continued later

²⁷ She was Lady of the Bedchamber.

in this work, as their lives and letters are much woven up with that of their son, who eventually succeeded to Burley. It also deals with history of a later date.

John, Third Son of Lord Nottingham.

Born in 1692. One of his Godparents was Sir John Lowther, an important man of that day. In 1717, John was with his brother at a private school kept by a Mr. Beastly. Various little bills occur in the accounts for John and Mr. B., viz:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| "Mr. John and Mr. Henry to Xmas | | | |
| 1707, given to Mr. Beastly ... | 10 | 15 | 0 |
| The other master | 8 | 12 | 0 |
| The maids last year and this year ... | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Sent by Mr. B. to Mr. John on his
coming away from School | | | |
| For Mr. Newbourg | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| For Mr. Beastly... .. | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| For Mr. John himself | 2 | 3 | 9" |

On his going to Christ Church, Oxford, the following expenses occur:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| "Mr. West, ye charges on Mr. John's
admittance to Christ Church ... | 52 | 2 | 9 |
| Mr. John's gown | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Mr. John on his going to Oxford, viz.,
for his | | | |
| Mr. John's Quarter Lady Day... .. | 25 | 1 | 6 |
| Journey expenses | | | |
| For his tailor | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| Mr. John for his charges from Oxford
to Burley | 1 | 8 | 6" |

On leaving Oxford John became a lawyer. Among the MSS. are letters from him to his father, stating his wish to "study for ye Law." In the accounts are the details of his entry "Paid for Mr. John's admittance to the Temple, £4." John was apparently, soon after this, very ill, for a bill of £398. 8s. is paid for "Mr. John's illness." Whilst for his "chambers in London" £25. was paid. It is at this time that Lord Finch writes concerning his brother—"I should think Mr. John Finch might be moving to London, there are so many Law preferments now vacant. P.S.—Pray My Lord lett Jack come for them."

Jack was then apparently allowed to come up to London, for the Duchess of Somerset writes at the end of a letter (which has been before quoted), "Jack was plain (meaning possibly his clothes) but much noticed of by ye princesse, who said she hoped to see him in a gown." This showed considerable foresight on her part, for John attained the gown, in which he is represented in his picture at Burley. Like all his family he did well in this profession, for from 1727 until 1729 he was Solicitor-General to the Prince of Wales, and in 1732 he became King's Councillor for the Duchy of Lancaster." At one time his people had evidently doubts of his ever distinguishing himself much, for Lord Finch writes anxiously about him to Lord Nottingham, "My fears for him arrise from other matters in his conduct, wch. is his inadvisable modesty and bashfullness, which prevent his puting himself forward in the world and perhaps will continue to do it and is ye natural result of his education and his retired studious life." In 1741 John became Member of Parliament at Higham Ferrers. Lord Finch continues on this subject: "I am glad he has chosen Higham Ferrers that by bringing him with a higher form of acquaintance

he by seeing more of the world, may know how to live in it before it is too late. For at present his happiness consists in the acquaintance of only two or three that have been bred up with him nor can I get him even in the idle hours (if I may be allowed without a offence to say that the hardest Student of Law may have some) to see even those friends that might be of use to him if he can butt be with his cosen and Sutton and gett down to Lord Aylesford's House it is all that he aimes at." (Lord Aylesford his uncle.)

John writes Nov. 13, 1725, about his election :—

"I don't hear my opponent is yett come to Higham I propose the moment I hear he is to sett out for yt. place and yn. to wait on yr. Lordpp. at Burley which I believe at present is ye only cool place in England. I hear yr. Lordpp. is likely to see yr. five sons soon altogether. I hope all at Burley are well and am My Lord yr. Lordpp's most dutiful son.

"J. FINCH."

In 1741, John gave up his seat at Higham Ferrers and stood for Rutland, to which he was elected in the same year. His colleague in this election was James Noel, son of the Earl of Gainsborough. John was M.P. for Rutland until 1747. He married and died in 1763, and is buried in the vault at Ravenstone, Bucks.

Lady Charlotte in her diary makes the following observation, "Heard that Mr. John Finch died this morning at Shrift Street, Soho."

HENRY, fourth son, born in 1694. Henry was evidently the idle one of the family. From his portrait he was a nice-looking man in a smart blue velvet coat. Lord Nottingham evidently regarded him with some disapproval, but his eldest

brother and his mother were very fond of him. In the accounts "My Lady" gives "Mr. Henry £4. 6s. 4d." Mrs. Catherine also kindly presents him with 19s. 3d., though who Mrs. Catherine was, we are not told.

Henry was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge.

These entries occur in the Accounts :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| "Paid at Cambridge on Mr. Henry's | | | |
| entrance to Christ College ... | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Henry for a black silk gown ... | 5 | 18 | 0 |
| To the College | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| The Lecturer | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Porter, Cook and Barber | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Orchard money | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Supper money | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Ringers at St. Andrews | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Candlesticks, snuffers, pen, extinguisher | | | |
| and perter plate | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Two knives and two fawks | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Making the gown | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Mr. Offley for Mr. Henry's charges on | | | |
| the road to Cambridge | 2 | 11 | 5 |
| By a bill on Mr. West to Mr. Henry ... | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Mr. Henry Finch | 5 | 7 | 6" |

Henry did very well at Cambridge, for he became a Fellow of his College, for which honour his father paid £18. 2s. 6d. He received an allowance of £208. a year whilst at Cambridge. But on leaving College he seems to have wished for rest and repose. An idea which does not agree with his father's plans at all. Lord Finch, however, kindly takes up his cause, and writes with some warmth to his father on the subject.

"Feb. 11th, 1723-4.

"MY LORD,—

"It is impossible for me in a letter to answer yours. It is so full of objections against every way of life that a young man may try, that it reduces it to the old question, whether a young man may make his fortune respectably in the world without a Profession, yours inclines to the opinion you have always had That it is very difficult if not impossible. I dont pretend to fix any particularly . . . way for Harry but I do desire he may be in the way of fortune in some manner or other, for I cannot agree that because he has no profession he therefore will never be able to live. Lett him be tryed as others have been before him and if he fails he cannot be worse than in ye way he is."

Again he writes later. "As for Harry I can only tell yr. Lordpp. this that I think him capable of anything but the Seat of ye muses or retirement at Burley wch can lead to nothing and contribute to no good. It is more than sufficient hardship that he has remained so long in the bosom of his Alma Mater after she proved so unnatural to him in disappointing him of his just pretensions to her favour. I have now in terms a direct offer from my brother of a Seat at Malton in case Sir William dies, wch I have this post thanked him for. But though upon discourse with yr Lordpp. you seemed whilst I was at Burley to think a provision out of Parliament most agreeable to his circumstances and upon discoursing with My Lady upon what I wished for him wch is to send him abroad she did not approve of yt. wch I mus beg leave to lay ye scheme before yr Lordpp. if he shall be chose at Malton or shall now immediately go abroad. His going abroad to learn languages is not all but to rub off the accademical improvements and habits wch in the

course of ten years he must have made and contracted, and see a little of ye world. I do entirely concurr with yr Lordpp in yr. notion of being independant of the world so far as relates to them (his brothers) for yr. Lordpp, who has made a great figure in the world and showed yrself equall to everything do right to maintain and practice a principal so much becoming yr dignity and character. I fear yr Lordpp will but consider the little additional expense it will be wch he can bear with the advantage that must acruce from going abroad wch you have before yr eyes for yr two younger sons. Otherwise Harry has not had fair play in the world."

All this correspondence about Henry resulted in his being sent off to the Hague to join his brother William. In 1725 he was dispatched to London with the important news that the "States of Holland had come to an absolute and conclusive resolution of acceding to the Treat of Hanover."

In 1724, Henry was elected member of Malton in Yorkshire, and represented that borough for many years. He was also Receiver General of Revenue in the Island of Minorca. In 1742, he held the post of Surveyor of the Works to George III., so in spite of his father's gloomy prognostications for him, he cannot be said to have done so badly for himself. In 1761 he died, unmarried.

EDWARD, fifth son, born in 1697, at Exton, in Rutland. One of his godparents was "My Wife's Aunt Mrs. Jane Hatton." He was, with his brother William, the most distinguished of Lord Nottingham's sons. In fact he may be said to have been the one with most ability.

From the accounts we find he went early to school, for he was paid by "My Lord's order for his journey" thither, £1. 1s. 6d., whilst for his "Pockitt" he received 10s. 9d.

On leaving school he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, and the accounts give the modest requirement that made up a University man's belongings of that day; very different probably to the luxurious young man of modern times.

EXTRACTS FROM ACCOUNTS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| " Mr. Herrig for a black silk gown ... | 8 | 16 | 0 |
| The Taylor's bill for making it ... | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| The Milliners for sheets, towels etc. ... | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 2 knives and 2 forks | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Candlesticks etc. | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| The Bellringers | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Journey expenses to Cambridge ... | 5 | 12 | 0 |
| Mr. Baker on Mr. Edward's admission
to Trin. Coll. Camb. Viz. admis-
sions Fees | 20 | 18 | 0 |
| Caution money to be account for ... | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Baker for expenses in Mr. Edward's
illness | 79 | 3 | 6" |

Enters the Diplomatic Service.

On leaving Cambridge Edward became a Diplomat. It is at this time Lord Finch writes to his father. "1723. Yr Lordpp from Ned is well assured of the situation of his own affairs and I writt him word that Lord T. with great complements to you told me he should have his appointment signed from the day of his having kissed the King's hand. That does not fully explain what we want to know what those appointments are to be. I always call Ned the Protestant Envoy."

He eventually received his appointment, for in 1723 he was sent as Envoy Extraordinary to the King of Sweden and also Minister Plenipotentiary to the Diet at Ratisbon.

FROM ACCOUNTS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Mr. Edward on his going beyond the | | | |
| sea | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid Mr. Edward's bill on Morley by | | | |
| Mr. West | 100 | 0 | 0 |

Sweden at first seems to have disagreed with his health, for Lady Nottingham writes to her husband.

"I am very glad you have writt to poor Ned. I pray God restore him his health, I would fain know what Mr. Petre's opinion is of it. I must own his letter to Charlotte was written in a scrawl but you may observe that to me was writt in a better hand, I wish you had read it for the contents would have pleased you, as it will my daughter Mostyn (Essex) and I have in the enclosed which I desire may be sent as soon as possible, advised him not to lose so good a hand as he can write by negligence."

In 1714, Edward was appointed Chief Envoy to the States General, he had therefore audience of leave of the King and Queen of Sweden. October 23rd, he set out for Stockholm, travelling by Copenhagen and Hamburg. On December 16th he arrived at the Hague.

He must have been a very fine gentleman, and have spent his money royally. For in one of her letters, the Duchess of Somerset tells her father, she hears from the "Duke of Richmond lately returned from the Hague that there is no House so finely furnished as my brother's, nobody lives so handsomly, no family so well regulated, nobody

entertains company so agreeably to them, nor with so much ease to himself as he does; In short he is ye delight of ye place."

A few years later he was appointed Plenipotentiary to the King of Poland. His mother, however, wishes much for his return.

Lord Finch writes sternly to his father on the subject. "I must beg of my Lady not to be so pressing for Ned's being recalled from Poland unless she has a mind he should be ruined."

In the reign of George II., Edward was sent as the King's Chief Minister to the Czarina of Muscovy. Chief Minister was the term in those days for Ambassador. He therefore set off to St. Petersburg, the Court of that Princess, where he had audience of her 1740.

Retires from the Diplomatic Service.

Four years later, tired of wandering on the Continent he returned to England. On his arrival he was made Groom of the Chambers to George III., and was also elected M.P. for the University of Cambridge. Edward cannot be said to have wasted his life. He evidently worked hard and had great abilities.

He married a daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, Bart. In 1764, he inherited Kirby (now, alas! a beautiful ruin) in Northamptonshire. The house and property had formerly belonged to the Hattons, near relations of Lady Nottingham's. On inheriting Kirby he assumed the additional surname of Hatton, he is an ancestor of the present Lord Winchelsea.

Lady Charlotte Finch in her diary, writes: "Heard Charles, Viscount Hatton died yesterday at Richmond. The

title is extinct and the Estate goes between his two sisters Elizabeth and Anne."²⁸

Edward Finch-Hatton died in 1771, and is buried at Eastwell, in Kent.



²⁸ They were the aunts of Lady Nottingham, therefore Edward Finch was their great-nephew and godson of "Mrs. Anne Hatton."



DANIEL, LORD FINCH





*Trinch
Winchelsea & Nottingham*

DANIEL, EIGHTH EARL OF WINCHELSEA AND NOTTINGHAM.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, ARTIST UNKNOWN.



DANIEL, LORD FINCH.

DANIEL, Lord Finch, the eldest son, was born at Kensington House, now Kensington Palace, in 1689. Where he was educated we are not told; possibly he had tutors and remained at home.

Enters Parliament.

In 1710, at the age of twenty-one, he stood for the County of Rutland, and was elected. His colleague and opponent were John Noel and Richard Halford. In the Accounts are some quaint entries regarding election expenses of that time.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| The Bell-man | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| The drums | 10 | 9 | 0 |
| Pinister's son, drummer | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Mr. Champante for taking the Poll ... | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| For ten Ordinary's at the Bell... .. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. Allen for Entertainment at the
Election | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Ditto for Horse hire | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid to Mr. Ridley for the Under
Sheriffe at the last Election For
returning My Lord Finch... .. | 2 | 3 | 0 |

In the Parliamentary Returns for the County of Rutland are the following :—

- 1710 Daniel Lord Finch (Tory)
John Noel—Richard Halford.
- 1713 Lord Finch—Bennet Lord Sherrard
- 1715 Lord Finch—John Noel (the former reelected
after taking office under the Crown)
- 1722 Sir T. Mackworth—Lord Finch
- 1725 Lord Finch reelected on taking office
- 1727 Lord Finch—John Noel

In 1729 Lord Finch succeeded his father, and ceased to be a member for Rutland.

In Lord Mahon's History we find this one record concerning Lord Finch :—

In 1714 the attention of Parliament was turned to the Public Press and measures were to be determined upon to suppress seditious Papers. The one which occupied the most attention, particularly that of the Tory party, being the "Crisis," a pamphlet said to be by Steele; but in reality the handiwork of Swift . . . a violent debate ensued and many fine speeches were made in the defence of Steele, the most remarkable being those of Walpole and Lord Finch. Lord Finch was the son of the celebrated Tory leader, Nottingham. He owed some personal obligation to Steele, who had formally refuted a libel on his sister. He now rose to defend her defender; but addressing the House for the first time, and overcome by the bashfulness usually felt on that occasion, he found all his attempts to express himself vain, and sat down in confusion, merely saying, "it is strange I cannot speak for this man, though I could readily fight for him." These words being overheard produced a general feeling in his favour; the whole house rang with encouraging

"Hear! hears;" and thus called on, Lord Finch rose a second time, and delivered a speech fraught with high public spirit and natural eloquence. Particularly justifying Steele in his reflections on the Peace of Utrecht. "We may," he said, "give it all the fine epithets we please, but epithets do not change the nature of things. We may, if we please, call it here honourable; but I am sure it is accounted scandalous in Holland, Germany, Portugal, and over all Europe, except France and Spain. We may call it advantageous, it must be so to the ministry that made it."

Such was the beginning of a long public career which though not illustrious, was long, useful, and honourable. As Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, Lord Finch formed part of several administrations, and held his last Cabinet office above half a century from the time of his onset. He resigned the Presidency of the Council in July 1766, and died in 1769, aged 81. Lord Waldegrave says of him that at the Admiralty "his whole conduct was so unexceptionable, that faction itself was obliged to be silent."

In his private life Lord Finch seems to have been an exemplary son. He conducted many of his father's affairs and looked after the interests of his brothers. Thus he writes to his father in 1723: "For as I always look upon myself as being the eldest, to be the slave of the family, I have hitherto devoted myself to that and am willing to continue the same method of proceeding. I have a view of my own, in the way I would have wished to live, I mean an active life. And therefore must come under yrs of a family Life. But as it is yr. Family and in compliance to yr desire and in obedience to yr commands that I ever once submitted to a thought of this kind."

Later he kindly finds a Cook for his Father.

"*Sept.* 1729. I fixed upon a cook for yr Lordpp who from his character I hope will answer yr purpose he lived nine years and a half with ye French Ambassador. The terms he insists upon and to wch if yr. Lordpp agrees I will send him down on Monday sevenight, he must have forty pounds a year and cap and aprons furnished to him to keep himself clean in the kitchen and these to be washed in the house. This "Du Four" has never been in any places but Brogho's and ye Duchess of Berry's kitchen where he learnt his trade. I hope that if you have a good cook it may help yr stomach and yr. health ; for at present I hear that nobody can have a good Stomach at Burley with such a cook. My brother and I have talked to Dr. Mead who has promised to write you his directions, he was mentioning ye other day yt. yr Lordpp would do well to try a glass or two of Spa Water. I cannot help every day thinking of what may be of service to you to restore that perfect health and strength to yr Lordship wch. is the constant wish and prayer of My Lord

"Your Lordship's most obliged and dutiful son

"FINCH."

From this letter it appears people were just as particular with their French cooks as are persons now. It also shows Lord Finch's sincere affection for his father.

Lord Finch is also employed by his Uncle, who writes from Constantinople. A letter in which Sir John would appear to have been a somewhat vain man.

"*Dec.* 8-18, 1729. I must earnestly desire you if I stay not to fayle to send by the first conveyance two young Students who can write a good hand, and understand Latin for Amenuenses to me and Sir Thomas, or either of us as we shall have occasion. And send out a Couch of plain

cloth with a back to it, large in the seat, very soft, and that will not pitt or dent. As to wine if Clarrett be sent and a little rum (they evidently, in the slang language of our day, were going to do themselves well). . . . As to the cloths I have already ordered in case I stay, of wch I would have one a rich suit, adde a third that may be Summer suit, and proper for heat, etc. Hatts, Perriwigs and shoes I mentioned not, because of course they never are to be forgotten.

"Your entirely affection Uncle

"JOHN FINCH.

"The cloths you send lett them not be of too sad Colours, the - - - - of black is improper in Turkey and I pray fayle not to send a couch with a back to it.

"God have us all in his Holy keeping—I rest

"Your most affectionate Uncle to see you

"JOHN FINCH."

Lady Nottingham is not always pleased with her son, for she writes complainingly to her husband " . . . receiving two letters directed by Lord Finch I hoped one might be from himself "; and again, "June ye 27th Lord Finch has ordered four horses to go down to Burley they sett out tomorrow, his groom with them, and the little Postilion."

Receives the Post of Gentleman of the Bedchamber.

On the Accession of George I. Lord Finch became Gentleman of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales.

In 1715 he was appointed Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, but resigned these in the following year.

In 1725, he became Comptroller of the Household, he was also one of the King's Privy Councillors.

April 26, he writes to his father: "I came from Newmarket yesterday and neglected seeing a very fine match

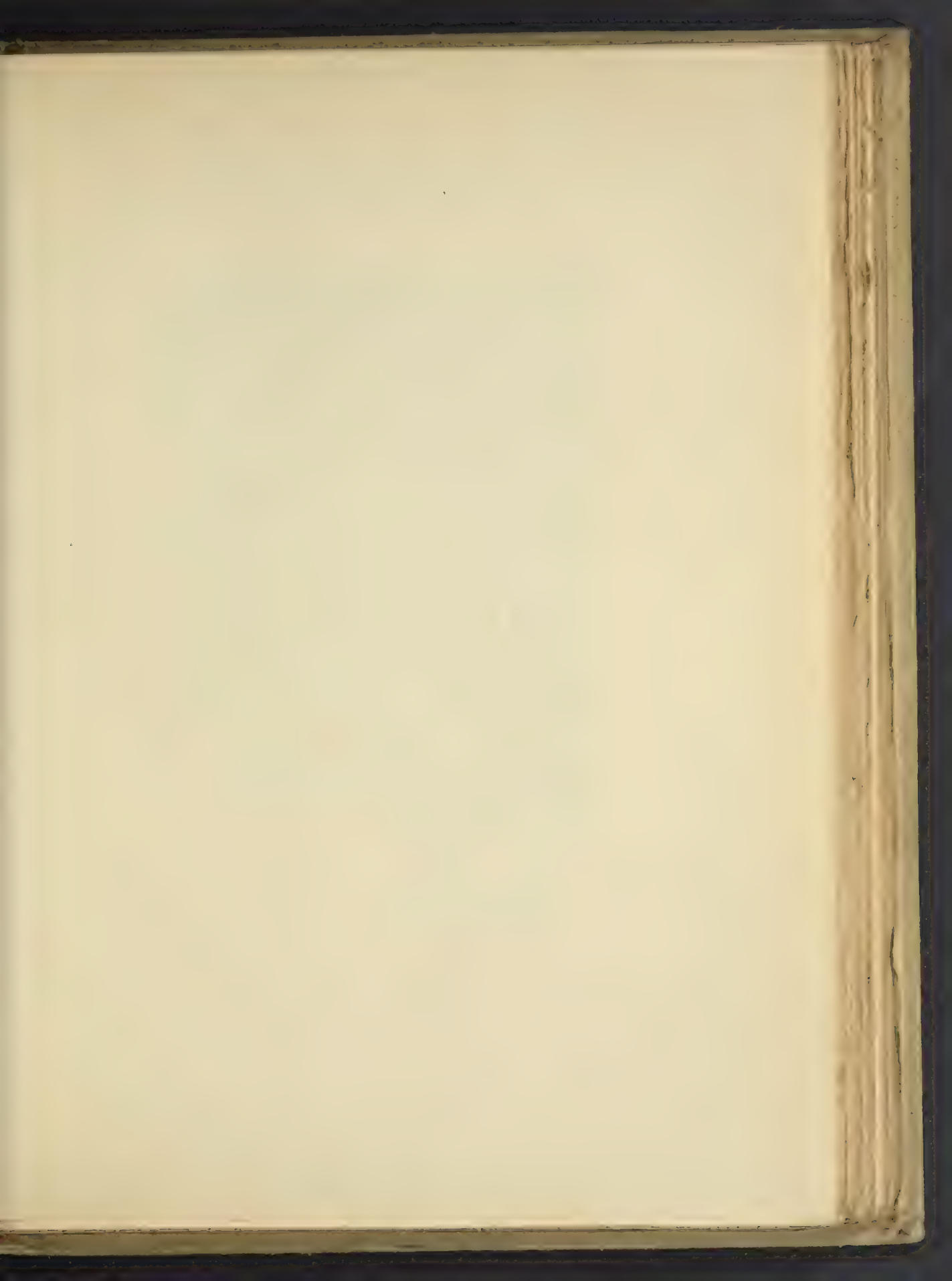
between Lord Godolphin's Whitefoot, and Mr. Honeywood's "True Blue." Wee (Henry and myself) find many faults with our chestnut colt at New Market."

Here is no doubt the key to Lord Finch's preference for this brother. They have kindred tastes for racing. Lady Nottingham occasionally finds fault with him for not writing. "The Ladies complain," she says, "that Lord Finch sends no answers to their letters." From the accounts which are given he must have been a very fine gentleman, as many little entries occur for his clothes. In one of the Duchess of Somerset's letters before given, she mentions, "My Brother's cloths were very fine," and describes them.

From entries in the Accounts he was evidently a keen sportsman : bills occur for guns, dogs, &c.

The Expenses of Lord Finch.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Paid to My Lord for Lord Finch ... | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Given Dr. Burton for Lord Finch's gun | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| For the ffine muslin cravats for Lord
Finch | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| A peruke for Lord Finch | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| Paid to John Spencer Lord Finch's
Footman on act. of his wages ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Morley (the taylor) on bills drawn
by ld Finch... .. | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid for Lord Finch's being lett blood... | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Paid Mr. Morley by West on Lord
Finch's account | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Morley on account of Lord Finch... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Morley on account of Lord Finch... | 130 | 0 | 0 |





FRANCES, COUNTESS OF WINCHELSEA AND NOTTINGHAM,
DAUGHTER OF BASIL, EARL OF DENBIGH.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Vanderbank*.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| Paid Harry Lord Finch's footman in full of his wages Mick. last ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid to Mr. Twyman on Lord Finch's order | 64 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid to my Lord Finch to give Charles for making a setting dog and attendance at Burley | 5 | 18 | 8 |
| Lord Finch for a Wainscoat Chest of Drawers | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid My Lord Finch for his Embroyderer | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid My Lord Finch to give Captain Steal | 32 | 5 | 6 |
| Then again occur expenses for his elections. | | | |
| " By expenses at the Rutland Election viz :— | | | |
| The moiety of ye Bill at ye several Inns | | | |
| at Oakham | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| The under Sherriff | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| The Bailiffs | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| The chairman | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| The Ringers | 0 | 10 | 9 |
| Jackson the Trumpeter | 0 | 5 | 0" |

Made Commissioner of the Admiralty.

In 1741, Lord Finch became First Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty. This same year he was one of the Lords Justice during the King's absence in Germany and was created a Knight Companion of the Garter. On the death of his father he succeeded to the title of Winchelsea and Nottingham. He was twice married. First, in 1729, in Eastwell Church, to Lady Frances Fielding, daughter of

Basil, Earl of Denbigh. Secondly, to Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, Bart., by whom he had four daughters. Their names were curious, viz., Heneage, Essex, Hatton and Augusta, only one of which is a female name, though Essex has been the name of many daughters of this family. This Lord Winchelsea, it is said, was extremely annoyed at having no son to succeed him, and for some years his youngest daughter was always dressed as a boy (a picture of her in this dress was some years ago in the possession of the Rev. F. M. Finch Osborne, grandson of the said Lady Heneage Finch, and Rector of Kibworth, Leicestershire). At his death, in 1769, the title and property went to his nephew George Finch, son of William Finch and his wife Lady Charlotte. Captain Fielding, son-in-law to Lady Charlotte, writes to her thus on the death of Lord Winchelsea.

"*August 1769*, Your Ladyshipp will excuse this confused note from a house of the deepest affliction. Poor Lord Winchelsea is no more; he died quietly about half an hour ago, the Ladies [his daughters] are all in agonys of grief, and I fear Lady Essex very ill. I am with Great Respect yr. Ladyshpp's most obt. and very Humble Servant

"CHARLES FIELDING."

"10 Minutes past two."

He was buried at Ravenstone. There are two pictures of him at Burley-on-the-Hill, one representing him as a somewhat uninteresting young man. And a second taken probably between the ages of fifty and sixty. (The latter picture is given in this book.) He held many important posts in the State, but does not appear to have greatly distinguished himself.

CONTINUATION OF
THE LIVES OF WILLIAM FINCH AND
LADY CHARLOTTE, HIS WIFE,
THE PARENTS OF GEORGE, NINTH
LORD WINCHELSEA.



C Finch

LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH, WIFE OF WILLIAM FINCH, DAUGHTER OF THOMAS,
EARL OF POMFRET.

GOVERNESS TO THE CHILDREN OF KING GEORGE III.
FROM A WATER-COLOUR PAINTING ON KID AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



CONTINUATION OF THE LIVES OF WILLIAM FINCH
AND LADY CHARLOTTE HIS WIFE, THE PARENTS
OF GEORGE, NINTH LORD WINCHELSEA.

As has been aforesaid, William Finch married in 1746, Lady Charlotte Fermer. The marriage was a very happy one; they were much attached to one another.

Extracts of Letters from William Finch to his Wife.

"MY DEAREST DEAR,

"I got hither yesterday in very good time and very well," &c. "On Thursday morning I shall leave it to return to my charming Love, for it is not but just now I have found out that no Place can make me perfectly Happy and easy without my Dear Companion. I long for your Letter, for I thought you looked pale yesterday," &c.

"Believe me to be with the greatest kindness,

"Yr. ever affectionate Husband,

"W. FINCH."

"MY DEAREST DEAR,

"I thank you ten thousand times for letting me know that you got safely to Chorley-Wood, and that the little dears are well and in spirits; but I am in the utmost

uneasiness about the Mad Dogs that I hear are about the country, all care and precaution should be taken about an affair of that consequence. I write to you in ye dark, for I dined out and I think I may do so till next winter if you stay in ye country, for ye world have taken it into their Heads that I am forlorn without you and ye Brats and think they make amends wch. they can't do."

Letter on the Death of King George II.

"LONDON, *Oct. ye 25th*, 1760.

"MY DEAREST DEAR,

"You may chance to have heard before this comes to your hands, that we have lost our good King. He died this morning between seven and eight of an apoplexy. He had been perfectly well ever since I saw Him, and even this morning had been particularly cheerfull, drest, drunk his chocolate, and then retir'd as usual; soon after, a noise was heard of something having fallen, upon wch. one of the Pages open'd the door and found Him upon the Floor stone dead. All people here are very busie and I amongst the rest.

"I am Ever yours,

"W. FINCH."

Their children were four in number. (1) Charlotte, whose name frequently appears in the letters, is always spoken of by her brothers and sisters as Miss Finch; she died young of consumption.

(2) Sophia, who married Captain Fielding.

(3) Henrietta, who never married, and was in her later years nicknamed "the Old Cat." It is to be presumed she was spiteful.

(4) George, afterwards ninth Lord Winchelsea.

As these children are constantly mentioned by name in the letters and diaries given later, it is necessary to mention their names, and the order in which they came.

Lady Charlotte appointed Governess to the Prince of Wales.

In 1762, Lady Charlotte received the appointment of governess to the Prince of Wales, then only an infant. She gives an account of the event in her diary.

"August Thursday 12, 1762. This morning half an hour after seven o'clock the Queen was safely delivered of a Prince and his Majesty appointed me the Governess of His Royal Highness. Recd. and answered a congratulation from My Lord Pomfret."

"August 13th. I went in ye evening to St. James to attend in ye Nursery and carried Sophia and Charlotte who saw the Prince. I went to Court with Miss Paulett and was presented to the King. The Duke of Devonshire swore in Mrs. Colesworth as Deputy and myself."

The diary occasionally relates to her own matters, as on August 14th she writes : "I bought a flowered silk Neglee 15s. per yard."

Letter of Congratulation on the Appointment from Lord Pomfret.

"15th. August 1752.

"MADAM,

"Though a family difference has for many years separated us, yet I cannot omit this opportunity of congratulating you upon the great Honour His Majesty has conferred upon you, in appointing you Governess to the Prince of Wales, a charge most Dear to his affections and of the greatest consequence to the happiness of the people. Permit me at the same time to thank you for the wise and prudent

behaviour wch has acquired the dignified preference and your family so great an honour.

"I am with the greatest respect

"Your Ladyship's most obdt. Servant and brother

"POMFRET."

Letter from Lady Charlotte in Reply to her Brother.

"MY LORD

"Give me leave to assure you that no family Difference can make me insensible to the obliging Notice you are pleased to take of the great honour conferred on me by His Majesty, therefore I beg you to accept my most sincere thanks for the Honour of yours and to take this opportunity of making you my congratulations on your being appointed a Lord of the Bedchamber.

"I am with great respect

"Your Lordship's most obedient Humble Servant and sister

"CHARLOTTE FINCH."

This is but a specimen of the numerous letters, now at Burley-on-the-Hill, of congratulations to Lady Charlotte. All of them in a more or less fulsome tone. "The benefit of the choice to the country" &c.

Extracts from Lady Charlotte's Diary continued.

"*Aug. 16th.* Received all the Princes linen and plate from Mrs. Schellenburg. Was introduced to the Queen by Lady Effingham."

"*August 19th.* 1762. this day the Prince was created Prince of Wales."

"*Sat. 21st.* Bought my clothes for the Christening, 18 yds. a Silver ground with Purple and gold flowers

£3. 16s., and 21 yds. of a Flowered silk on a pink ground for a robe for Sophia at 14s. 6d."

"*Aug. 26th.* Went to St. James and attended the Prince in his State Cradle."

"*27th.* Went to St. James morning and evening; recd. from the Queen the list of the Establishment of the Prince.

"*The Establishment is*—The Governess £600. Sub Governess £300. Wet Nurse £200. Dry Nurse £160. etc.

"At seven o'clock his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was baptised by the Archp. of Canterbury by the names of George, Augustus, Frederick; the Sponsors were the Princess Dowager of Wales, the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, represented by the Duke of Devonshire. Went to St. James' morning and evening and attended to hold the Prince in my arms for his christening, there were present all the Royal Family and their Households, Peers and Peeresses. Privy Councillors and their wives. The Queen sat in her bed of Crimson velvet and gold lined with white satin embroidered with gold and a fine point Counterpaine. She was dressed in a net white and silver negligée."

"*Thursday. Sept. 9th.* I went with the Prince of Wales to take the air with Mrs. Scott, his nurse, attended by a Party of Light Horse and two grooms and two footmen, as far as Parson's Green."

"*April 1762. Sunday 18th.* Heard yt. there was to be a particular dress for Ladies to wear at Court, wch. was to begin on ye Queen's Birthday. Heard that ye King had purchased Buckingham House with 31 acres for 30,000 lb. of Mr. Charles Sheffield."

"*Dec. 1762.* Went dressed by ten in ye Morning to St. James' to carry the Prince of Wales to Leinster House

to congratulate the Princess. The Prince was dressed in a pink sattin Coat, the petticoat trim'd with a Net of silver, on ye Body a fine Brussels Lace Bib Tucker and cuffs. His cap of ye same and his Coral Thing Pea Green, a Ruby and diamond Rose in his cap, and another on the knob of ye corral thing, his Cloak was Pink Sattin trim'd with Ermin and silver Loops and his cap Pink Sattin cover'd with Silver Net, and a Pea Green Feather fasten'd with four Roses of Rubies and Diamonds."

It is small wonder Lady Charlotte devoted so long a Paragraph to the little Prince's gorgeous apparel, considering that he was at this time not more than two or three months old.

"*Dec. Wed. 16th.* The Prince sat the first time to Miss Reed."²⁹

"*Dec. Wed. 29th.* Dr. Wilmot, Dr. Duncan and Mr. Hawkins were sent for at two in ye morning, to the Prince, found him very much oppressed with a cold and cough and some fever, ordered him Rhubarbe and Squills. Was called up at 4 o'clock to go to St James' on account of the Prince of Wales being ill and staid there all day, dined with ye Maid's of Honour."

"*Thursday 30.* The Doctor found the Prince better, but determined to put him on a blister."

"*Jan. Thursday 18th. 1763.* To day was observed for the Queen's Birthday My Cloaths were Garnet Colour and Gold Stuff, Cha's were white and gold Striped 25s per yard, Mr. Finch's a striped brown vilvet with rich gold. Attended the Prince of Wales in his apartment, to see the company he was dressed in a Blue and Silver Stuff, his Cap etc. Devonshire Lace.

²⁹ A painter of this time. There are two of her pictures at Burley-on-the-Hill.

"The Prince sat the second time to Ramsey."

There is some mixture in the Diary after this concerning the short coating of the little Prince. Lady C. mentions the fact twice, but giving a different month.

"*March 19th. 1763.* The Prince's Coats were shortened, he had a Pea green sattin dress."

"*May 19th. Tuesday 1763.* The Prince of Wales was short-coated, had a Pink and Silver short coat with a lace Frock and Diamond Shoe buckles and a Pudding [hat] the same as the coat with a black and white Feather."

"Went to the Queen's House early to carry the Prince in to the King and Queen to wish joy on Her Majesty's Birthday who is 19 to day."

"This day was observed at Court in Honour of the Queen's Birthday (wch. is really May 16th.) and there was a Ball at night, as usual Mr. Finch was obliged to lay aside his weepers⁸⁰ to attend on account of the Duke of Devonshire's being ill. He dined at the Duke of Manchester's, Lord Chamberlain to the Queen."

"*April 29th.* The Prince gave me a fan."

"*May 2nd.* The Prince cut a tooth.

"The Indian Kings and Chiefs were at the Drawing-Room."

"*June 20.* I bespoke a Crimson Velvet bed for the Prince of Wales at St. James': the Prince sat for his Picture to Mr. Myers in miniature."

The end of August or the beginning of September, Prince Frederick was born, for in her diary Lady C. chronicles that she held him at his christening, Sept. 14, 1763.

⁸⁰ In mourning for his mother-in-law, Lady Pomfret.

"*Sept. 17th.* Went to St. James' and attended Prince Frederick in his State Cradle. The Prince of Wales sitting by him."

"*Sept. 22.* Attended the Prince of Wales under his Canopy in his State Room."

"*Oct.* Went to Harris the Mercer's to buy Prince Frederick's Blue Sattin coat."

"*Dec. 23rd.* The Prince of Wales and Prince Frederick gave me a pair of silver candlesticks, one having the feathers engraved, and the other the crest and coronet."

"*Jan. 18. 1764.* Prince Frederick sat for his picture in miniature to Mr. Meens."

"*Jan. 18th. 1764.* The Prince of Wales was dressed in a pink and Silver Yammer with a diamond pudding on pink and a white feather. Prince Frederick in a white and silver, with a gold trimming, attended the Princes in their apartment to receive Company."

"*Jan. 13. 1765.* Their Majesties gave me their Pictures whole length in oyle of miniatures size. [These pictures hang on the East Staircase at Burley-on-the-Hill.]

"Went to the Queen's House and gave the Prince his dinner."

"*Feb. 18th.* I bought a Rose coloured silk for ye Prince of Wales."

"*Feb. 27. 1762.* To day I was 39 years old the Queen gave me an Agate Box set in gold with a little gold spoon in it and filled with gold powder."

"*May 19th.* I bespoke a gilt porringer, plate, knife and fork for Prince Frederick."

"*June 18. 1764.* The King drove me in a cabriolet in ye evening about ye garden to see the Hermitage."

"Mr. Finch went to the Opera with the King."





FREDERICK, DUKE OF YORK, 1771 (AGE 7½).
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL BY *Brompton*.
(GIVEN BY QUEEN CHARLOTTE TO LADY C. FINCH.)

"*Sept. Thursday 11. 1764.* Prince Frederick walked quite alone."

"1764. Went to Harris the Mercer bought a gras green sattin coat, and a pink flowered sattin nightgown. To the Queen's House early and airing with the Princes and walked them in Kensington Gardens. Sir E. Wilmot advised for the Prince Gascoigne's Powders and Nitre, to be taken at night, Rhubarb twice a week as usual and to drink Scarborough Water for his common drink."

"*Monday 5th. 1764.* Four Deputies from Osnaburg came to complint. their Majesties, and the Prince on His Royal Highness' election ye 27th of Febry. last past, to the Principality and Bishopric of Osnaburg. Went to the Queen's House early and was told by Her Majesty yt. she had sent Baron Behr to inform me yt. news had come yt. Prince Frederick was elected Prince and Bishop of Osnaburg on the 27th. instant past, her Majesty being pleased to observe it was my Birthday. I went home and recd. the Baron. The Queen gave a Ball at night at wch. were present all the Royal Family, besides ye Dukes of Ancaster and Manchester, Lds. Lorne, Huntington, Eglington, March, Weymouth, Bolingbroke, Cantalope, Ducss. Hamilton, Lady Weymouth, Lady Jane and Lady A. Stewart and ye Maids of Honour, The Dow. Ducss. of Ancaster, Ldy. Bute and myself attending the young Princes."

With this extract ends the information in the Diary concerning the young Princes, there are a few more extracts, however in the letters of Lady C. about them.

Extracts from the Letters.

"Tuesday evening eight o'clock,

"LONDON, May 1766

"I am just come to Town with all the young Princes who are to be very fine, and the King has given the Prince of Wales a diamond star which he is to put on to-morrow."

"KEW. My Parlour Monday morning.

"I am to bespeak P. Frederick a Saxon Green Camlet suit with silver buttons for the P. of Wales' Birthday, and P. William is to have a coat of the same colour over which he is to wear his mignonet frock which will look very pretty, he is a pleasing sweet tempered child but not to compare in beauty with P. Frederick, and I think the leaving off his cap a disadvantage tho. he has fine hair, and the prettiest little round head I ever saw, he was dressed one day in a Vandyke dress and looked exactly like a little doll."

Henrietta Finch was very busy with her pen and wrote accounts of the Court and Princes to her brothers and sisters.

Henrietta to her Brother.

"The Small Pox is come out upon both the Princes the physicians say they will have it in a very favourable way the Prince of Wales is as quiet and good as a lamb. Prince Frederick is peevish but that may be owing to its not being so much come out upon him. Little Prince William is prettier than ever"

"ST. JAMES, *March 13, 1766.* The Prince of Wales is more sensible than ever, and very often talks of you. The spots are now almost entirely gone out of his Face."

"Monday, May 17th, 1766. As to day is the Queen's

Birthday, the little Princes are all here and are gone with Mama and Mrs. Cottesworth to the Lodge. The two eldest Princes are dressed in blue corded silk coats with very pretty silver buttons, laced ruffled and silk stockings, and little Prince William is short coated and is in a pink coat with a lace frock over it,

"The Prince of Wales went to ye Play last night with ye King and Queen. The latter was so good as to send in the morning to tell it us and desire we would come into Miss Schvellenbergen's box if we chose it, so Sophia and me did. The Play was the 'Jovial Crew' or 'The Merry Beggars.' The Farce 'Perseus and Andromeda,' besides there was a little dance of children made on purpose for him. The Prince of Wales behaved sweetly, made his bow to ye Royal Family, etc. he looked excessively pretty and seemed delighted. He found us out directly and pointed to us. He beat time to ye music with his little hand and was not at all frightened though he fixed on four devils that started all of a sudden out of the ground and danced before him Nor at a lion that appeared in ye farce he was vastly pleased with ye little dance of children, etc. There was a monstrous clap for the little Prince when he first came in and when he went out."

Henrietta to her sister, Miss Finch.

"Kew. *Saturday, August 2nd.* The Prince of Wales has a new dress come home this morning—it is a sailor's, the jacket is blue and gold, the Waistcoat red and gold and little white flowers. He looked immensely genteel and well in it. Mrs. Dennyer was there to teach him to dance, so we all saw him. I never saw anything so genteel nor so innocent as

he danced. I never saw anything so pretty as his little step, it is a great secret from the King, I don't know when he is to do it before him."

"KEW, *Monday, Yr. room, Augst. 18th, 1766.* Sir John Pringle gave Sophia and mama each a little Piece of Prince Frederick's money which he has brought over with him. He says they enquired a great deal after their little Bishopp, that the Palace there is very large and entirely without furniture, he entertained us a good deal about Osnaburg and says they like a minority vastly as during the whole time they have the revenue for the good of the country."

"KEW. *August 16th, 1766. 1 o'clock.* I must tell you, though I believe Sophia will that we were obliged to dance the Hays with the Prince of Wales in the Green Garden before the King and Queen. I was not half so much frightened as I thought I should be, but to be sure there was very little reason as it could hardly be called dancing."

"KEW. *Thursday morning. Sept. 24th, 1796.* Ma's Parlour 6 o'clock. I think the King grows very fond of the Prince of Wales, though he does certainly snap him sometimes."

"*Sept. 18th, 1766.* Dear Prince William is I think improved since I have been ill, and has recovered a vast deal of that sweet clear white and red he had at St. James'."

"*Oct. 20, 1766. ST. JAMES.* Sophia and me stood ye night of Prss. Caroline's wedding in ye Presence Chamber to see her go by. She was dressed excessive fine in a white and silver of ten guineas a yard. The pattern of wch. I saw at the Mercers afterwards as well as the patterns of all her other cloaths that she has taken to Denmark which are all very fine. The poor little Prince of Wales has been quite ill. Mama and Dr. Pringle think him something better now

though he certainly mends but slowly. Princess Royal grows and improves vastly."

"KEW. *Saturday, Nov. 15th, 1766.* Mama and me are still at Kew but we fancy we shall go to Town soon, as the Prince of Wales is so much better. Sophia went the other day with Lady Anne and me to the House of Lords to hear the King speak, it was a very fine speech and the King spoke it very finely."

"*Oct. 1766.* Sophia writt you word yt ye Princes are going to be inoculated, it has been put off a little by the Prince of Wales having a fever he has been blooded in the foot since, which he bore very well though he cried a little at the time. Prince Frederick was blooded to day he was to have been bled in the foot but it was so fat they could not feel a vein so they bled him in the arm."

Extracts from Henrietta Finch's Letters Concerning King
George III. and the Royal Family.

"The Dear King went in his coach to-day I saw—tis so very fine and glaring a Day. I think his Eyes, dear Soul, are worse, which *in his case* must you know be. For I fancy his sort of sight and full Eyes much tried must be really injured. He is often since I have been here in good spirits apparently, but sometimes Silent and never spoke last night at coffee, his talking time. The Evening before he talked a great deal to me and I had ye felicity of amusing him by telling him of several things, and the Queen seems to encourage this very much always wishing to entertain him."

"The Day is uncommonly hot, and walking in Frogmore till lunch or dinner at 2 gave me a sad headache," &c.

"I had gone in ye coach wth. ye Queen, Sir P. and Lady Elchester. I believe it was ye first time I ever was in ye coach with ye Queen. She is indeed remarkably kind in her notice of me. She sent for me one evening to sit with her, but I was on ye Terrace which she did not know. I have forgott to tell you of ye D. of Cambridge having been constantly here till to-day at our 2nd dinner in ye Greatest Spirits beyond anything and all gd. notice, and thinking me quite well I daresay, throwing little Pellets of bread at me at dinner and supper and forever with his sister Mary laughing and talking without end. Pray tell him how afraid I was of ye little bits of Bread.

"I was delighted to tell Dr. Pss. Mary Aug^a. you had mentioned your having had a delightful letter from her (she is quite an angel to me and easy to me)."

"I was tyed up and got ready for walking when ye Queen sent for me to go with her, she was very agreeable and I tryed to be so too, and Dr. Pss. Auga. was really a very gt. help, Dr. Mrs. Harcourt is here and ye Sunday E. (at 3 or 4 tables) pass'd very well and ye King seemed quite delighted and amused by Mrs. Harcourt and Lady Radnor.

"P.S.—Dr. Pss. Mary most anxiously Enquired of my Br. of you."

With these letters and extracts ends all there is to be found relating to Court life. There are, however, a few Royal letters at Burley-on-the-Hill from the King, Queen and Princesses. Following these will be given some Royal letters to Lady Charlotte and her daughters, which are now in the possession of Mrs. Arthur Wilson, though whose courtesy I am permitted to reproduce them in these Records.⁸¹

⁸¹ These letters were formerly the property of Mr. George Hicks, grandson of Lady Charlotte. On his death they were sold, and purchased by their present owner.

ROYAL LETTERS AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

Letters from Queen Charlotte to Lady Charlotte Finch.

"MY DEAREST LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH

"Receive this urn as an acknowledgement for your very affectionate attendance upon my dear little angel Alfred, and wear the enclosed hair,⁸² not only in remembrance of that dear object; but also as a mark of esteem from your affectionate Queen

"CHARLOTTE."

"TO LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH,

"I rejoice greatly my dearest Lady Charlotte to congratulate you again upon the Return of the day. Tho' absent you are not forgot amongst the inhabitants of Windsor and to prove it, I beg you accept of an Antique I lately met with which is pronounced by Connoisseurs as well executed, I wish it may be so to your taste and trust you will always look upon the Donor as

"Your unalterable and affectionate Friend

"CHARLOTTE."

"WINDSOR 12th. of February, 1808."

Letter from the Prince Regent to Mrs. Fielding (daughter of Lady Charlotte), after the Fire at St. James' Palace.

"ST. JAMES' PALACE. (G. P.)

HONBLE MRS. FIELDING."

"Have the goodness my Dear Mrs. Fielding to send me a line to tell me how Dear Lady Charlotte is, and how she has borne the dreadful alarm, as well as removal of

⁸² On the packet enclosing the hair is written in the writing of Lady C., "Prince Alfred's hair cut off during his illness Aug. 1782, at the Lower Lodge, Windsor."

the last night ; I am also most anxious to know how you all are, and that poor Augusta⁸⁸ has not suffered by the late night's alarming event, I do assure you that Lady Charlotte was my first consideration, at the instant I was informed of the fire not being at the same time also told of her being lodged in safety at the Duke of Cumberland's Apartments, I delay'd writing or troubling you as I am doing at the present moment, till I thought you would have a little time to recover your first alarm, I have taken the liberty of accompanying this note with a little box, which I hope that Dear Lady Charlotte will not think wholly unworthy of laying upon her table, it contains some Opium Pills. each half a grain (20 drops) and though perhaps she may not be advised to try the Pills, still, I cannot help flattering myself that the sight of the box may now and then recall to her recollection the Donor, who I entreat of you, to assure her for six and forty years never has ceased nor for the rest of his life, never can nor will cease to love her from the very bottom of his heart. . . . Pray Dear Mrs. Fielding forgive this long and hasty scrawl and believe me, Ever
"Your Very sincere friend and affectionate humble servant

"GEORGE. P."

"*Jan. 21st. ½ pt. 2. p.m., 1808.*"

Letter from the Duke of York to Mrs. Fielding.

"HALL YARD, *Decem. 3, 1812.*

"The Duke of York presents his Compliments to Mrs. Fielding and is extremely sorry that there has been a mistake about her box at Covent Garden Theatre this

⁸⁸ Princess Augusta, his sister.

morning. The Duke of Cambridge acquainted the Duke of York that Mrs. Fielding wanted to have the box the same evening when Mr. Batty played and named Thursday as the day he usually acted. Upon finding that Mr. Batty did not act this evening but is to play tomorrow the Duke of York thought that Mrs. Fielding would prefer to have the box tomorrow and I think disposed of it for the evening, but tomorrow it is very much at Mrs. Fielding's Service."

Two Letters from King George III. to Lady Charlotte.

"To the lady Charlotte Finch . . . K."

"LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH,—I wish you would tell Mr. Finch that I am sorry I missed him in the Drawing-room this day : but by his crossing the room this happened."

"I ever remain Lady Charlotte Finch

"Yours sincere friend,

"GEORGE R."

" $\frac{32}{6M}$ pt. 3. P. C. Queen's House,"

LETTER No. 2.

"LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH,—the Queen is not well but everything bears the best aspect, therefore I hope to God before you can arrive that the Queen will be safely delivered,

"Your very sincere Friend

"GEORGE R."

" $\frac{m}{5}$ past in the morning. . . .³⁴

"(Received at Kew, *August 21st, 1765.*)"

³⁴ Indistinct.

Letter from Princess Elizabeth to Lady Charlotte.

"(Princess Elizabeth's Letter with the Queen's message sent me from Windsor, Feb. 25th, 1805.)

"MY DEAR LADY CHA.

"The Queen commands me to say that as Wednesday evening she is able to do as she likes and it being your Birthday, and not having last year been able to visit you that day she particularly wishes to pass it with you at your own house, and begs you will invite who you please or no one if you like better, but she hopes Lord Winchelsea⁸⁵ will be there. Mrs. Carters she knows you generally have Miss Hughs, your own family and anybody else you like—if you open your rooms She desires me to say she will sit with you and some few whilst we remain with dear Miss Finch and Mrs. Fielding not to be too much for you. Keep quiet in the morning if you accept which you will have the goodness to let me know and also what o'clock we should come.

"You may believe how I delight in the thought of this visit.

"Your Aff.

"ELIZ."

"Feb. 25th, 1805."

Letter from Queen Charlotte to Lady Charlotte Finch.

"MY DEAR LADY CHARLOTTE,

"I again join with my daughters in *Joys* for the Child of the Day, and rejoice to find that his *New Year* is begun without the wont of a *nurse*, may you continue to enjoy health and every blessing you deserve, it is my sincere

⁸⁵ George, 9th Lord Winchelsea, her son.

wish and my desire that by looking at this trifling locket you will remember

"Your Affectionate Queen

"CHARLOTTE."

"The 27th February, 1781 . . . Q. H."

Letter from the Princesses to Lady Charlotte.

"The Veneration, attachment and Respect which *we feel for you* Dearest Lady Cha. and which is most deeply impressed in our Hearts is happily well known to you, and from the earliest *Infancy we felt that affection*, which maturer years proved to us to be granted to us in Gratitude and esteem.

"We are truly Sensible of the exertions you have made in writing to us, and we beg you to be assured that nothing you ever *could send us* could give our hearts such gratification, as the Sentiments of *your love for us*, given in your *own hand, own words*, and under *your own handwriting*.

"It is indeed true that we have *had our share of sorrow* but as we have had many blessings, nor do we look back to the having been under your care as one of the least of these *mercies* of Heaven. These are the genuine sentiments of those who have the pleasure of signing themselves

"Your most truly affectionate grateful

"AUGUSTA, ELIZ., MARY, AMELIA.

"WINDSOR CASTLE, Tuesday, Oct. 18th, 1808."

Letter from Princess Mary, afterwards Duchess of Gloucester.

"MY DEAREST DEAR LADY CHA.

"I must thank you over and over again for two most kind letters, I have not been able till this moment to find time to answer, as we went with Papa and Mama last

Thursday to the Drawing Room, and since we returned we have been almost every day at Frogmore. The account you give me of the little boy's christening amused me of all things, and I am delighted to find that both the Mother and child are so well in health. Your last letter was upon a more serious subject and the kindness you express and show to me upon this occasion (and I may say upon every other occasion during my lifetime) are deeply engraved in my heart. I can find no words to express all I wish to say and how I feel your goodness to me, but believe me when I assure you I am most grateful I flatter myself measures are now taken that will prevent anything else happening that is disagreeable. I understand that it went off very well in the House of Lords last night only seven Lords against the Bill. I am sure you will be shocked Lord Thurloe went away from the House, and gave no vote one way or the other. The King expressed how much he felt your son's coming up for to be at the House yesterday, he told Mama, '*I look upon it as the greatest compliment and the kindest thing that ever was done.*' I could not help making to myself a little memento about this, that is that Papa or any of this family will never find you or Lord W. behind hand in showing any work of respect or affection, and I could only wish other *friends* may prove themselves as true friends, but I am sure at this moment we have many weathercocks in the House.

"The Drawing Room last thursday was quite a Birthday. I was very much tyred when it was over, it was very . . . coming all together, etc.

"Adieu my dearest Lady Cha. we are longing for our Foreign Posts to come in as the reports are they bring in good news from the Army, the French having been beaten

most compleatly by the Austrians. God grant it may be true.

"Adieu again, and believe me

"Yours most affly.

"Mary."

"Love to all at Burley."

Many words in this letter are very indistinct ; therefore it is possible some words are incorrect.

Letter.

"Mama orders me to let you know that they think there will be business in the House to-day, and that she desires Ld. Pomfret would go down there. I never can take any commission for anybody with more pleasure than for one I have as much regard for as for you.

"ANNE."

Letter from Queen Charlotte to Mrs. Fielding.

Written in 1804 when Lady Charlotte had undergone an operation for her eyes.

"WINDSOR, *the 10th of June*, 1806.

"MY DEAR MRS. FIELDING,—the accounts Mr. Phipps sent us last of yr. dear Mother are so satisfactory that I trust little or nothing can now be feared upon the subject. With my sincerest wish for her speedy recovery assure Lady Charlotte that the Dear King, Myself and all belonging to me do most sincerely share with her family both the anxiety and joy this event occasions. That the

Almighty may preserve to you a Mother so justly venerated and to us a friend so justly esteemed will ever be my sincere wish

“CHARLOTTE.”

“I send a Servant on purpose to have the latest accounts.”

Royal Letters to Lady Charlotte and her Daughters.

The property of Mrs. Arthur Wilson.

**Letter from Prince Ernest of Mecklenburg to
Lady Charlotte Finch.**

“TO LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH AT KEW.

“MADAM,—I could make a great many excuses and apologies for my not having been exact in answering your polite and obliging letter you have been so good as to write to me a few weeks ago, but I will be true and confess that I must have an immense time to put together a few lines in English; I find a little journey to England will be very necessary for me for a great many reasons, let one be to improve my writing, the chief one you may easily guess. Your Ladyshpp may or will believe I hope that the pleasure to pay my duties to you and your amiable Family, is a real one for nobody in the world has more esteem for you than I have. The Tenderness I know you have for your children makes me understand how much you enjoy the happiness to be a Grandmother. I wish you may have the satisfaction a great many years: and yt. every prosperity may attend your Worthy family. Be so good as to present my Compli-

ments to your daughters ; I am very flattered to be remembered by them.

" I am with the Greatest esteem

" Your Ladyspp's most obedient and humble servant

" ERNEST. DUKE OF MECKLENBURG."

" AUSTERLITZ. Sept. 5th, 1793.

" *Excusez a Griffonage ane le montrez a personne.*"

Letter from the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge to Mrs. Hicks
(youngest daughter of Lady Charlotte).

"The Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge having taken upon themselves, with the consent of the rest of the Royal Family to carry out the wishes of their lamented sister Her Royal Highness, the Princess Augusta (who left no will) have the pleasure to forward to Mrs. Hicks this memorable of the Princess, which they trust Mrs. Hicks will value for Her Royal Highness's sake.

" KENSINGTON PALACE, 22nd September, 1814."

Letter from Queen Charlotte to Miss Fielding at Gibraltar.

(On the top in Miss Fielding's writing, " Sent to Gibraltar and not received till March, 1816.")

" MY DEAREST MISS FIELDING

" I put off answering your letter sent me by your sister Mrs. Hicks on account of the Uncertainty of any possibility of managing to send it with any security. By the last note your sister wrote there is a prospect of transmitting some accounts from hence to the part of the world you are going to, so I seize the very first opportunity to assure you, that I am so fully persuaded of the uprightness

and steadiness of character that had you not by being sole executrice to your Dear Mother's will had a right to open her letters I could never have suspected yr. ever making any bad use of the contents of those I wrote to her 't will at least hope prove to you that I have meant and hoped not to have failed in the attempt at acting fairly to all parties, more I am sorry to say I shall not be able to do, but beg you will rest assured that upon all occasions where either my speaking or asking for yr. welfare can be called upon You shall ever find me ready to come forward. My respect and love for Dear Lady Charlotte and my sincere affection for your Regretted Mother will ever secure to you my best wishes, etc. I beg my compliments to yr. Uncle Winchelsea of whom I hope to hear that change of air and place have done him good, how happy you are to be under his protection in your Present Distress his supporting you will make it more easy on your return, for having been an eyewitness to everything that passed he is enabled to stand by you, and I hope you will feel the benefit of it. The apartments at St. James were ordered not to be touched until yr. return, they were given the very day the account came so that you may make yr mind easy that nothing will be touched, and no person can interfere with anything and whatever the Bedchamber woman may be to inhabit the Apartment hereafter, I promise you it shall not be hurried. God bless you my Dear Matilda and give you strength to go through your troubles without injury to yr. Health.

"C."

"The 2nd of April 1815."

Letter from Princess Augusta to Mrs. Hicks.

"I really am ashamed Dear Augusta to think how long you have had to wait for your ten pounds. I send them in hastiness I do feel for you poor Dear that you have parted with Dear George. I trust that it will not be for as long a time as you may think, and thank God the same kind Providence is all the world over and will protect your Dear good son the same at Corfu as in London. I hope the air at Brighton may lead to your returning sleep. Yesterday I passed a quiet day at Dear Kew being in the grounds again always does my heart good and *calms and soothes and comforts*, bringing me back to long happy *days gone* not to return again!

"God bless you my Dear Augusta

"Your very truly Affectionate friend

"AUGUSTA."

With this letter ends the royal correspondence. From it we gather the kind thoughtfulness which characterised Queen Charlotte and her daughters—a merit for which the Royal Family has always been conspicuous. From this doubtless springs the devotion and loyalty of the people to any member of the Royal Dynasty of England.

OF LADY CHARLOTTE'S PRIVATE LIFE we gather little gleanings from her journal and letters, and from the letters of Henrietta. The remarks in the journal are very quaint. She gives most minute details of the physic they took for their health, the stuff she bought for her dresses and "Mr. Finch's clothes," and the severe course of religious instruction she read to her family. The diary speaks so well for itself it is unnecessary to dwell on it here.

Of the three daughters, as has been before stated, Henrietta remained unmarried, Charlotte died young Matilda married Captain Fielding and had four children, viz. —Matilda who never married; Sophia who married Lord Robert Fitzgerald; Augusta, who married a Mr. Hicks, and is the Mrs. Hicks mentioned in the letters; and Charles who, like his father, was a sailor.

Among the miniatures at Burley are some of the whole family, parents and children; the two eldest were remarkably beautiful.

Letter from Henrietta Finch to her Mother.

"Saturday Morn.

"DEAR MAMA

"Brother is playing with my little sister and the Kitten. Little Flora is to take possession to day of the Room that the Partridges used to be kept in. I am vastly happy here. I am reading Robinson and Crusoe which I like vastly. Pray give my duty to Grandmama. Love to Lady Sophia and compts. to Mrs. Shelly. I am My Dear Mama Your Dutiful

"and affte. Daughter

"HENRIETTA."

Extracts from the Journal of Lady Charlotte.

"*Sat. 16th of Jan. 1762.* I read to ye children Hughes discourses on Eternity and Patience, and after dinner Dr. Nichols Sermon Preached at the Temple on the death of Sherlock Bishop of London."

She gives also little details of her health, for that same



1. SOPHIA FIELDING, AGE 19, MARRIED LORD ROBERT FITZGERALD.
2. MRS. FIELDING, DAUGHTER OF THE HON. WILLIAM AND LADY CHARLOTTE FINCH,
WIFE OF CAPTAIN FIELDING (THE MOTHER OF THE FOUR OTHER PERSONS RE-
PRESENTED ON THIS PAGE).
3. MATILDA FIELDING, BY *Plinner*.
4. AUGUSTA FIELDING, MARRIED MR. HICKS.
5. CHARLES FIELDING, R.N., BY *Miss Birrell*.

FROM MINIATURES AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL

evening we find she "took near three spoonsfuls of Rhubarbe on going to bed."

"*Thursday 26th.* I read to ye children Dr. Hughes Discourses entitled 'awake to Righteousness.' I was bled by Mr. Adair."

"*Sunday. 2. 31st.* I read Prayers at home and a discourse upon Sloth."

"*Feb.* Heard that Lord Pembroke went off last night with Miss Kitty Hunter."

"*Feb. 20th.* In the evening was surprised by a visit from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, she staid about an hour and was Vastly entertaining, very oddly dressed, but retains a great deal of beauty especially in her eyes tho. she is 73 years old."

"*March 1762.* I bought 18 yds. of Black silk for a Negligée for Cha. at 8s. per yd., 20 yards of a white spotted Silk at 6s. 6d. per yard for Sophia's robe, and 18 yards of a striped white watered Taffety for Frances and Harriet's coats."

"*March 3, 1762.* Mr. Finch made me a present of the Gold Coronation Medal of King George III.,³⁶ which he received this morning for having walked as Privy Counsellor at the Coronation. Mr. Finch and I took the Air."

"*23rd.* Took Tincture of Rhubarbe over night."

"*April 9th.* Carried Sophia and George to church being Good Friday."

"*20th.* Mr. Finch bought a figured Red Velvet and gold Brocade Waistcoat and pasiment to it. Bought a pair of Point Lace Ruffles for Mr. Finch. . . . Bought for

³⁶ This is possibly the gold medal which is in the glass box at Burley-on-the-Hill.

Mr. Finch a dozen of China Sloop Plates at 14 pence a plate and 2 Sallid Dishes at 3d. a piece.

"The girls and myself took Rhubarbe over night. Cha was blooded. I took some Powders over night and Tincture of Rhubarbe in the morning.

"Harriet was blooded for a sore throat and fever."

"*May 6th.* Heard that a dreadful fire was broke out at the Dow. Lady Molesworth in Upper Brook Street, Wch in a short time consumed the house, herself and two of her daughters, her brother and some servants perished in ye flames, the 3 other daughters jumped from the 2 pair of Stair windows and were miserably bruised and their bones broke."

"*May 1763.* Heard Master Conyers was taken ill yesterday of a billious Fever."

"*17th.* Heard Master Conyers had been bled four times since Sunday morning."

"*Jan. 6th.* A fire broke out in the Vault at St. James's church which has been burning since Wednesday night and consumed a number of coffins."

"*Sunday.* Cha took a Bolus of Camomile flowers Syrup of Orange. Cha read Hayd's discourse entitled 'Judge not.'"

"*11th.* Cha was blooded by Mr. Adair.

"Cha's picture was finished."

Poor Cha., mentioned so frequently in her Mother's Journal and in their letters, was hopelessly delicate, and succumbed to the violent treatment of the day.

Lady Charlotte to her Son.

"MY DEAREST GEORGE

"I came last Friday with Harriet to Kew and should have been very happy had I not left poor Cha very uneasy in her stomach, she has continued so ever since. I went to Town yesterday and dined with her, but had not the comfort of finding her better. I pray God I may soon."

Later she writes again to her son :—

"Poor Cha thank God is almost well of the measles, but has been worse of her Stomach I really think than ever which grieves me to ye heart. Lady Mary Bertie they think will expire every moment, and we have had but a very uncomfortable account of pretty little Miss Dawson, who they fear is far gone in consumption. God give grace to all that are to undergo such trials to bear them as they ought to."

Henrietta to her Brother.

"I believe we never writt. you word that Miss Finch has got a chamber Horse which jumps her up and down and is now well enough to ride a little upon it which is a great comfort to her as she thinks it does her stomach so much good. I thank God I have had a much better account of Miss Finch to-day. It is from Mama and she says her cough and spitting are very little. What makes me the most comforted about her is that her pain was a great deal less in the night before the letter was wrote and she had been in so much pain.

"We walk very often in the King's garden with Miss Finch who finds exercise agree with her, she is going to ride and got a crimson cloth Riding habit with Gold Buttons.

"I am Your affcte Sister

"H. FINCH."

As already stated "Cha" died young of consumption.

HENRIETTA, the 2nd daughter, seems to have held some appointment at Court, in fact she held the Post of Sempstress, of which the following details are given in a Paper at Burley-on-the-Hill. "Statement of Salary, Allowances, and Compensations of the Hon. Miss Henrietta Finch, as Sempstress to Her Majesty."

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| "Estimated Value of Allowances, &c.,
in kind received from the Board of
Green Cloth | 51 | 13 | 4½ |
| "Allowance in lieu of Sheets | £12 | 10 | 0 |
| Do. in lieu of laces... | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| "10 per cent. Property Tax
alloted | 83 | 3 | 4½ |
| | 497 | 3 | 8½ |
| "Deduct Land Tax, Civil List, &c. ... | 106 | 0 | 0 |
| | 391 | 2 | 1½ |
| "Added to make an even sum... .. | | 7 | 0½ |
| "Amount of annual salary, &c., subject
only to property tax | 391 | 10 | 0 |

"N.B. which being not less £5 13s. £10. 10s. 9d per quarter instead of £9. 15s. per quarter, make ye income in all yearly £350. and 7s. not £352. 7s."

Henrietta appears, from her letters, rather fond of clothes, for she writes to her sister: "I want monstrously to consult you about my cloaths for the winter and I should be monstrous glad if you would advise me as I have nothing but my pink satin and my dirty purple gown, but I should think a Pink Negligée and nightgown would certainly be sufficient. I think I may afford that."

Again she writes : " I am dressed in my yellow with the sleeves and all of the same silk which I think looks prettier than any other colour. Sophia wears her Gold and white linnen always of a morning wch. I confess I think quite a pity as it a sweet thing and begins to look dirty."

From Rome she writes—" You wonder I did not give you an account of St. Peter's, I am sure I should have wondered had I thought of attempting it; since there is no words can do it justice. You ask me a description of ye Pope wch. is I confess a much more reasonable demand; I have seen him perform many ceremonies and in different functions in all of wch. he appears to me most like an old woman of anything I ever saw he is much liked by his subjects and by all accounts is a good Pope and no bad man. Tomorrow ye Pope takes Possessions wch. they say is a magnificent function. We shall see it from ye Capitol; we receive a thousand civilities here and are really well entertained."

Henrietta never married, and in her latter life kept house for her brother at Burley-on-the-Hill.

Lady Charlotte Resigns the Post of Governess.

In 1792 Lady Charlotte, being an advanced age, resigned the Post of Governess to the Royal Family. A copy is now at Burley-on-the-Hill of her letter to the Queen on the subject, from which a few extracts are here given :—

The Letter.

"ST. JAMES'S, *August 24th*, 1792.

"MADAM,

"The more I attempt to find words, descriptive of my feelings in what this letter is to convey to your Majesty, the more distressed I am. Each word must make my heart bleed, and I can only trust to your Majesty's experienced goodness to feel for me when I am forced to acknowledge myself no longer capable of fulfilling as I have done the honourable and gracious trust, still reposed in me by the King and your Majesty of attending your beloved Family as I have now done for thirty years complete with an affection equal to that I have felt for my own. My state of health has been much more declining than I have suffered to appear, but now that my strength is less, and my Spirits quite fail me, added to many infirmities of Body incident to near 70 years of age, Rest and Quiet is become necessary for me. I must know how unequal I am to attending Youth and Royalty in the manner my Place requires, and how ever candid and considerate your Majesty has been for these later years in dispensing with my attendance on them in public Places . . ."

The letter continues with a long explanation of the difficulties she finds in fulfilling the many duties her position required owing to her health and age, and ends—

"I have therefore only to lay myself at your Majesty's feet and implore your goodness to accept of my grateful thanks for the many instances of your condescension and Goodness towards me and to beg of you to think of supplying my place with those more calculated to fulfil the present duties of it than my worn out State of Body and mind allow me now to be."

Lady Charlotte continues, in a memorandum, to say that, in her letter to the Queen, she resigned her salary of £600 a year, only asking to be allowed to continue on the same footing at St. James's with the allowance given her in lieu of diet, which would satisfy her during the remainder of her life. "My name of Governess remaining to me, and I signing the Bills and orders as usual."

Memorandum, Feb. 1792. "I recollect my Expressions to the King were pretty nearly these :—

"I must now beg of your Majesty to lay me at the King's feet in the most Humble and grateful manner, for I must ever remember with Pride and gratitude that thro his goodness and distinction of me (unasked) I was first made known to Your Majesty, and thought of, as worthy of the great trust reposed in me, now thirty years ago. As I know he is just and gracious, if I have done my duty by having dedicated my time and all my Powers to it, it is a Duty of nature I should hope not to be forgotten or looked upon as a common Court attendance," &c., &c. . . .

Ending with—"All this I now humbly leave to the King's and yr. Majesty's Royal consideration and commit myself entirely into your hands to decide on the fate of one who will never cease to be to both your Majesties a most Dutiful

and loving Servant."

Death of Lady Charlotte.

On May 19, 1796, Lady Charlotte died at her House in Hertford Street; she was deeply mourned by her children. Her son erected a monument of a kneeling figure by Chantry in her honour, which is now in the church at Burley. She

survived William Finch, her husband, thirty years, for he died in 1766.

On the base of the monument is a long epitaph of the virtues, &c., of Lady Charlotte, a copy of which seems to have been sent to the Queen, for in 1815 she writes to Mrs. Fielding: "My respect and love for Dear Lady Charlotte and my sincere Affection for your regretted Mother will ever secure to you my best wishes. I cannot possibly pass over in silence the intended Epitaph for yr. lost friend. It is in every respect what it ought to be, Pious, Dutiful and True, and all together comprised in so small a compass which denotes it proceeding from the heart of a dutiful child toward a beloved parent. I beg you to receive my thanks for giving me a copy which believe me is not ill bestowed."



GEORGE,
NINTH EARL OF WINCHELSEA AND
NOTTINGHAM.





Winchilsea

GEORGE, NINTH EARL OF WINCHELSEA AND NOTTINGHAM.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL BY *Woodforde*.



**GEORGE, NINTH EARL OF WINCHELSEA AND
NOTTINGHAM.**

GEORGE, 9th Lord Winchelsea was born in Nov. 1752. His birth was a great joy to his parents, and numerous are the letters of congratulation received from their friends and relations. He was also heir to his uncle, who had only daughters.

Letter from Lord Delawar to William Finch.

"I wish you joy with all my heart; may your son live to be what you desire. My best respects to Lady Charlotte and believe me wth. the greatest truth and respect Dear Sir

"Your most Humble and most obedient Servant

"DELAWAR.

"The King is in perfect health but we wait for a Wind."

Letter from Lord Aylesford to William Finch.

"DEAR COUSIN

"Mr. Weaton having told me of your great felicity in having a fine Boy born of Lady Charlotte, I send this most heartily to congratulate you upon this happy occasion, and the rather since the young Gent. will in all probability put an end to all uneasiness in the Family about succession.

"I hope Lady Charlotte and your son are very well and beg you to make my compliments to your Lady, when proper. That every thing may succeed to your wishes, in all scenes of life is the wish of

"Your Affcte Humble Servant

"AYLESFORD."

Childhood.

Letter from William Finch to his Wife.

"LONDON, *April ye 3rd*, 1755.

"MY DEAREST DEAR

"I have had no letter from you this day which has been a great disappointment to me.

"The pretty Boy is as well and charming as is possible to be."

Letters from Lord Winchelsea to his Mother.

"*Wednesday Morn.*

"MY DEAR MAMA

"I hope you are very well and that you will catch no cold after the cold night that you walked upon the Terrass. I am vastly happy. Last night we played upon the Bowling Green at Bowles with Mr. Ridecker, Mrs. Dormer, Mrs. and all of us five. I won two games.

"I am your Dutiful and affte. son

"GEORGE FINCH."

"*Sunday Morning*

September, 2nd, 1759.

"DEAR MAMA,

"I thank you for your letter which I forgot last time I wrote, the Peahens have pecked two poor little

chickens skins off their heads. Mrs. Dormer thought that they must be killed, but Nanny put on some fresh Butter which made them much better.

"I am my Dear Mama

"Your Dutiful and affte. son

"GEORGE FINCH.

"P.S. Pray give my duty and compliments, and love as due. Mr. Potter is come here so Master Finch can't write any more he is so delighted."

Letters from Henrietta concerning her Brother.

"DEAR MAMA

"If you like I will tell you how we pass our time. We get up at a quarter after 7; after that we walk out a little in the shade about the House, then we read the Psalms and chapters, then while Miss Finch, Miss Sophia, and Miss Frances read the History of Scotland, Brother and me learn by heart, then after we have done that we say our lessons and read to them. After that we dine, and then after the servants have dined we walk out and then we play about, then Brother and me writes in our Copy Books then at 8 we sup and then at 9 we go to bed.

"I have just begun the Chinese Tales which diverts me vastly. You cannot think how goodnatured my sisters are to me and particularly Miss Finch who does everything to please me. I have almost painted that pretty little picture which you gave me for a prize.

"Your dutiful and affte. Daughter

"HENRIETTA FINCH."

"P.S. Pray give my duty to Papa."

Henrietta to her Mother.

"Brother is vastly happy about his journey, all the dogs are very well and very much grown. . . . We were vastly happy last night making cakes and tartes which we had for supper. Miss Sophia told you in her letter how little brother treated us with a little tea under the shade of the House wick *made us very happy.*"

Goes to Eton.

October the 8th, 1761, Lady Charlotte experienced the grief of all loving mothers, when she sent her little boy to school for the first time. She writes thus in a letter to her mother of the event: "I had a visit from Mr. Kimber and recommended my son to his care in case of illness. Monday morning about 9 o'clock we left George (who behaved with all the spirit imaginable) at Mrs. Young's and returned home in time for dinner. The missing the dear agreeable company I used always to find at Windsor, together with the business I went about, of parting with my dear little boy, were not subjects to raise my spirits however as to the latter part I behaved so well that he perceived no regret in me about it. As to the former I will comfort myself with thinking I shall see him in a little more than three weeks. Twas impossible for me to convey the 16 volumes, when I went to Windsor, as the Post chaise Trunk was entirely filled with George's cloaths etc. You know I always said I would take up my Spanish when George left me."

Extracts from her Diary.

"My Dear George came quite well thank God from Eton. He had Mr. Perry, Mr. Vernon and Mr. Egerton with him in the evening."

"Jan. Saturday 16th, 1762.

"George set out early this morning to return to Eton School."

"March. Recd. a letter from George to say he was Captain of ye 1st form."

"Nov. 4th, 1762. My Dear Boy was ten years old to day."

Lord Winchelsea does not seem to have honoured his family with many letters, or else they were not kept. Perhaps, like many school boys, he was not fond of his pen. When at Oxford, and later, he wrote much to his mother.

Letters from Lady Charlotte to Her Son.

"MY DEAREST GEORGE,

"You were vastly kind to let me hear from you so soon, it made me quite happy and I hope you continue perfectly well. Cat has told you all the news so I will only add that I love you dearly.

"Yours Ever

"C. FINCH."

"MY DEAREST GEORGE

"I thank you for Your last pretty letter and cannot help adding a word in Cat's. . . . I have been vastly busy all day in sorting out the books that I have got from Saville Row. I am Vastly pleased to find among them several Latin ones of very Fine Quarter Additions printed at Cambridge and well bound which I take care of for you, there is a Virgil a Horace and a Terence besides several others and some Dictionarys besides etc. etc.

"Adieu my Dearest,

"From Your Affte.

"C. FINCH."

" MY DEAREST GEORGE

" I have just taken Harriet's pen out of her hand, just to say that I thank you for your sweet entertaining letter, and that I have seen your Papa this morning who said Lord Cranby had told him at Court, of having had you to dine with him, with which he was vastly pleased, so you had better mention it in your next letter to him. Adieu, My dear, I shall write soon again but am just now in a hurry going to Kew. I am vastly pleased to hear of your good exercises being sent up again.

" Ever Your Most Affcte Mother

" C. F."

" ST. JAMES *Saturday* 2 o'clock."

The sisters wrote besides numerous letters, but as they are of no particular interest, the few given here from Lady Charlotte will suffice.

Succeeds on the Death of his Uncle to the Title and Estates.

In 1769, at the age of seventeen, George succeeded his uncle.

Goes to Oxford.

Either in this year or in the year following, he entered Christ Church, Oxford. In a picture of him at Burley, dated 1771, he is represented in his Gown—a very picturesque costume of grey brocaded silk or satin, trimmed with gold lace. He wears a grey coat, waist-coat and breeches with ruffles at the sleeves, a white stock round his neck, and carries in his hand his black college Cap with its gold Tassel. He also has on a grey perriwig. The face is not at all handsome, but it looks good-natured. The picture is a very charming one by Dance.

Letters to his Mother from Oxford.

" *Aug. 8th*, 1792.

" Dear Ma'am,

" I am much obliged to you for your letter, I did not receive it in time enough to write by the return post if I had I should certainly have wrote. I hope I have signed my name rightly I picked out the best pen I could. I am very glad to hear Mr. Claydon and Mr. Cowsdale thought I looked well, indeed I was never better; I cannot quite yet tell you what money I should be glad to have as I have not yet called in my bills, but I will call for them immediately and let you know. With regard to the time of my coming away I should be glad if agreeable to you to leave Oxford some little time before the beginning of September in order that I may get over my visits before that time, I mean those visits where I shall not be likely to get any shooting. I daresay you will find full employment for the month in the country, it will be much the best time of the year to be there as the ground will be tolerably dry. Our races here are this week this is the last day, there were races yesterday and the day before, there was a ball on Monday. I went to it and danced with Miss B. Jeffreys the Maid of Honour their whole family is down here with Dr. Jeffreys Canon of our College who is extremely civil and obliging to me. I shall go to the ball again to-night, there is very little dancing, last time I danced but four dances. I must now conclude as I am just going to the race. I beg my love to my sisters and am Dear Ma'am

" Your dutiful and Affectionate son

" WINCHELSEA."

In another he says: "I hope you will not think me unreasonable if I should ask to have my Quarter sent here (as

I believe Quarter day is past) instead of receiving it when I go to Town if it is not convenient to you to send it all, I should be glad of some part as I want to pay one or two bills before I go which I cannot do at present. I hope it may not be inconvenient to you."

On the death of his Aunt he writes :—

"DEAR MA'AM I am much obliged to you for your letter and beg pardon for not having answered it sooner. I put on my mourning immediately I suppose by this time everything is known that will be known about Lady Bell's¹ disposition of her money etc. for if we are to judge by the profound secrecy that was kept with regard to lord W.'s affairs we shall not know much about it.

"I am very glad my sisters have so much dancing etc. lately. I hope Sophia is none the worse for it.

"I have just received my guns and cloaths and neck-cloaths the latter are just what I wanted, a thousand thanks to Harriet for the trouble she has taken."

"1771. Pray give my love to Sophia and Harriet, and tell ym that I hope they will not be disappointed if the gloves should prove common ones, and that it was my ignorance yt. made them appear uncommon and another thing that it will be some time before they have ym. as they are to travel some hundreds of miles."

At one time there appears to have been some quarrel with his tutor, for in a letter to his mother he mentions that they had met very good friends, and that "he was never any disagreeable restraint to me I assure you otherwise than what arose from his Temper or sometimes a momentary one when I took it into my head at the time of reading that I should like

¹ Lady Isabella Finch, his aunt.

to do something else better and that I never considered a real one. I assure you I will take pains to apply with him as you desire it and I am perfectly convinced he can be of great use to me and more now than ever as our Reading now cannot be with squables or differences."

Takes his Degree of M.A.

In spite of "liking to do something else" rather than work, he announces, July 7th, 1771: "I imagine you have seen in the Papers that I have taken the degree of Master of Arts. It was commemoration here, I wished very much or you and my sisters to have been here. There was a most excellent sermon preached in the morning by the Bishop of Oxford and a collection made at the church door, in the evening. There was an Orratorio. The next day in the morning all the company assembled in the Theatre, where the Prize verses and prize Declamation in English were read. The Public Orrator makes a speech in Latin in which he enumerates all the Founders and among others Ld. Pomfret. The Vice Chancellor Doctors Noblemen etc., walk in procession to the Theatre; those who take an honorary degree stay in another room I walked in the Procession as far as the Theatre and went into another room. As soon as they were all seated the Vice Chancellor proposed the degrees which were voted by the Master of Arts etc. then the Beadle came into the room where we were, and we followed him into the Theatre. As soon as we came there the person who presents you to your degree takes hold of your hand and makes a Speech upon you—the Speech upon me lasted 20 minutes in which I assure you, you was spoken very highly of. It is vastly distressing to

stand in the middle of the Theatre before such a number of people and hear the commendations of your relations and your own. I wish you had been here because I think it would have entertained you."

Leaves Oxford and makes a Tour through Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1771 Lord Winchelsea made a tour through Scotland. He was much delighted with Alnwick, for he writes to his mother :—

"EDINBOROUGH, *August 21st, 1771.*

"The next day we got to Alnwick for dinner. It is really I think the most noble place altogether I ever saw, I hardly know what to compare it to, but it struck me as being something like Windsor Castle that is like the Round Tower, there are three Courts Yards one within the other which are all fortyfied and have immense gates, he has fitted up the inside entirely in the Gothic manner and in the most noble way imaginable; there is a Park about 18 miles round, which however is separated from the House by the Town. There is another Park or Pleasure Ground which comes close up to the House and is pretty large with a stream running through it; they live there in the most princely manner the number of servants is amazing and their table is very well served and very handsomly. We were vastly well amused there; the Great Park is really very Noble and has some wood in it. They live in a very easy manner they were vastly civil and alway drank your health and the King and Queen's."

In another letter he mentions: "I have had several small accidents with the chase but nothing material."

Life at Burley-on-the-Hill as a Young Man.

His mother does not appear to have ever lived with him at Burley, but often visited him. He writes to her from there, December, 1774 :—

“Though Burley affords but little news, I sit down just to let you know that we are very well and very well entertained here, we have been very busy a hunting, and that tired me so much that in the evening I have had no courage to sit down and write, however to show that shooting is not quite deserted, we have packed off to-day a brace of woodcocks and a hare which I hope will prove good.”

Thanking her for some Bottle Stands, he says : “You know I am often so very busy about nothing here, that I have no time to write. I am very glad Matilda is got well too. I think she is vastly improved in her looks since you went. We are now almost in darkness and have been so all this morning and yesterday, with a very thick fog, which quite stops all hunting or indeed seeing. I have got a number of thing from Mayhew. I am sure the House will soon have a more furnished look and when you come down again you will find it I hope, a little more in order.”

“BURLEY. As I shall be in Town so little before the Marriage [probably that of Frances Fielding, his niece] might I beg of you to order a coat what you like, as it will be a means of having it much prettier than if I ordered it myself.”

Visits Constantinople.

In 1775 he visited Constantinople, which was considered a great journey in those days. The following information was sent to his mother.

“*17th August 1775.* An English Captain Acquaints me

that he saw the Earl of Winchelsea and his companions at Mycone twenty days ago, who were going to Tino and Delos, and then intended proceeding to Constantinople as the Wind is Southerly. I expect them daily."

Lord W. brought home several quaint purses with his name embroidered on them, which are at Burley-on-the-Hill now.

Extracts from Henrietta Finch's Letters, concerning her brother, George Lord Winchelsea.

" WINDSOR.

"I long to see my Dr. Br. again, I have only conversed wth. him this mg. He came to see me and I had not told half enough how much they all like to have him here. He plays with ye King and Queen at Commerce."

"I am sure they were all delighted with my Dr. Br. coming. He is flown off to-day to dine with Lord G. Seymour I believe at Hampton Court, but returns to walk on the Terrace this evening."

Henrietta to her Mother.

" BURLEY.

"My Dr. Br. arrived in charmg. time on Monday, and has been in delightful spirits ever since. He has hunted every day but one, on which I attended his shooting all one morning on my horse. He seems vastly happy in his having opened his mouth in ye House, having express'd it several times, and has no fancies about having done anything awkward," &c., "and indeed seems quite pleased with having been called upon, and now says he would not have declined it on any account. . . ."

"He is at present quite provoked at Lord Gains^{gh} (Gainsborough) being gone for a week to Lord Exeter's on a

coursing and card-playing Party, as he says in ye very prime of ye Hunting season. He really cannot swallow it as you can easily imagine."

Later on she writes :—"I was very glad to hear of my dear Br. and his Regiment² from you."

Created Groom of Stole.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1804, is stated the following: "Queen's Palace, May 14. Right Honourable George, Earl of Winchelsea to be groom of the Stole to his Majesty."

"*June 6th.* Hon. George, Earl of Winchelsea, took the formal oath on being made Groom of the Stole to His Majesty. Queen's Palace."

Letter from the King to Lady Charlotte on the Subject.

(MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.)

"QUEEN'S PALACE, *May 10th*, 1804.

"The King cannot but express with the greatest sense of affection and indeed gratitude the care Lady Charlotte Finch has ever taken of his numerous family; this and the real regard he has for her valuable son the Earl of Winchelsea makes him choose her as the chanel to acquaint Him that he has sent for the Key³ of Groom of the Stole which Office was held by the King's truly estimable friend the late Duke of Roxburgh, and desires the Earl of Winchelsea will come as soon as convenient to receive it from him.

"GEORGE R."

² This possibly refers to the Regiment mentioned later.

³ The Key is now the property of Mrs. A. Wilson, having been sold with the letters belonging to Mr. Hicks.

Letters of Congratulation from the Princesses.

(MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.)

May 10th. 1804.

"MY DEAREST LADY CHA.

"We are still of one opinion in respect to our affection and esteem for you, therefore it must be needless for us to say more than that from these our sentiments which you so justly deserve, You may be certain that no circumstance could have given us greater pleasure than Lord Winchelsea's appointment. His Majesty after having seen him conducted him and presented him to the Queen, who expressed herself in the most gracious and kind manner to Lord Winchelsea. You my Dearest Lady Cha were not forgot, and the King was so good as to show us *all separately* the letter you had written to him. Accept of our joint congratulations and depend that among the many you will receive, none are more sincere than those of your friends at the Queen's House.

"CHARLOTTE, AUGUSTA, ELIZA, MARY, SOPHY, AMELIA."

Created Knight of the Garter.From the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

"*Thursday, January 17th.* At a Grand Chapter of the Garter held at St. James's this day, Charles Duke of Beaufort and George Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, were invested by His Majesty with the insignia of that order."

In 1810 from the same magazine we learn that a terrible gale took place, in which great damage was done to the Burley property, including in the latter an avenue of chestnut trees, "the total number blown down 300.

The Prince Regent visits Burley-on-the-Hill.

"*January 7th*, 1814, the Prince Regent accompanied by the Duke of York, left Belvoir at two o'clock for Burleigh [the seat of Lord Winchelsea]."

This is the only information respecting this visit, except that the Prince was to have occupied the State Room but objected to sleeping in the State bed and had therefore to occupy the large State Dressing Room instead.

In 1822, Lord Winchelsea accompanied the King on his tour through Scotland. And at the King's death he attended as Groom of the Stole on the Windsor establishments.

He made considerable alterations at Burley, for it was he who built the balustrade on the Terrace, sweeping away the four other terraces. He also built a riding school [the present summer stable]. The Home Farm was built by him and the closed passage to the Colonnade. The wall of the Court was pulled down and the present railing put up. In some ways it would have been better if he had not been so busy. The dining room was at this time decorated by Adams. The plate now in the house was made by his orders, as his uncle had left all the family plate away from him.

At the time of the American War of Independence, he raised a Regiment of Infantry to fight for King George III. But among the papers, &c., at Burley-on-the-Hill, no trace is to be found of accounts, &c., for it, or what it was called. It is possible the men were recruited in Rutland and the surrounding counties, and on Lord Winchelsea's other properties. He raised this regiment at the cost of £20,000, and it was afterward split up and the men were employed as marines on various ships.

In 1789 he acted as second to Colonel Lennox, after

wards fourth Duke of Richmond, in a duel between Lennox and Frederick, Duke of York. This duel was fought on Wimbledon Common. It is said that the Prince Regent never forgave Lord Winchelsea for acting as second to his brother's opponent.

Towards the end of the Eighteenth Century, Lord Winchelsea introduced the system among his cottagers of allowing them to hire a small portion of land and to keep a cow. He is said to have been the first person to allow this. In his character he was genial and generous, but withal very autocratic.⁴ At his death, in 1826, he was buried in the vault at Ravenstone with his ancestors.

The East Window in the Church at Burley was erected to his memory.

There are five pictures of him in the house; the one given in this volume; one Kit Cat size in plain clothes done at about the same time, in which he wears his Star⁵; and one as a juryman at Oxford; and two when a child.

⁴ In 1803, he appears to have also raised Volunteers called the "Rutland Legion of Rifle Corps." There are accounts to this effect. Also in a Lumber Room over the Carpenters' Workshops are stored away 50 or 60 guns, swords, powder-horns, bags, knapsacks, water cans, belts and bayonets. The knapsacks have the letters "R. V." on them, and an Earl's coronet. All these implements are of a curious out-of-date pattern.

⁵ There is a Garter Star, now at Burley, with this inscription: "This St. was worn by his Majesty George III. and given by his present Majesty to George, Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham."

MR. GEORGE FINCH.





— *G. Finch* —

MR. GEORGE FINCH AS A CHILD.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL,
BY *Woodforde*.



G. H. Finch

MR. GEORGE H. FINCH, M.P., AS A BOY.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL,
BY *Hurlestone*.



MR. GEORGE FINCH.

On the death of George, 9th Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, the house and estates in Rutland, Buckinghamshire and Essex passed to Mr. George Finch, who was born September 2nd, 1794, and educated at Harrow, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-two he became member of Parliament for Lymington, one of the Rotten Boroughs then in existence. In 1832, after the passing of the Reform Bill, he stood as Conservative member for Stamford, and was elected. Later he was member for Rutland for a short time. He was a good classical scholar, an extremely religious man, and a strong supporter of the Evangelical church. He was at one time Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Rutland and Justice of the Peace. In his private life he was an excellent husband, a kind and just parent. Like most of his family he was at one time very fond of hunting and rode hard. Later he gave up this pastime altogether, as he thought his passion for sport made him neglect his other duties. One cannot but admire a man who had the strength of mind to deprive himself of a pleasure purely from religious and conscientious motives. It is said that he was extremely fond of cricket, and liked his servants and employés to play during

the summer; it mattered not how much they might neglect their work if they played this game. The estate suffered somewhat in consequence. Although he gave up hunting himself he liked his sons to hunt, and thought if they did not get a fall or two during the day they could not have—to use a sporting expression—"gone well."

Mr. George Finch was twice married. First to Jane, daughter of Admiral and Lady Elizabeth Tollemache, who lived only two years after her marriage. She died in 1822, at the age of nineteen, and is buried in the family vault in Burley churchyard. Her little child, born at this time, died also. Secondly, he married Lady Louisa Somerset. She was the daughter of Henry Charles, 6th Duke of Beaufort, by his marriage with Lady Charlotte Leveson Gower, sister of the first Duke of Sutherland. Lady Louisa will long be remembered by those who knew her. Her charity, both in giving and in her dealing with others, endeared her to all. Her contemporaries admired and liked her, and among the poor people she was venerated and looked up to. In her own family she was deeply loved, and her grandchildren cherish her memory. Some of their happiest hours were spent with her, either at her house in London or at Burley-on-the-Hill. Part of her charm consisted in her sympathy with those who were young; though old in years, she never grew old in heart. She was a most religious woman, and her religion appeared in her life. Among her characteristics was her love for her own mother, of whom she constantly spoke, whose authority was so great over her daughters that even after their marriages they never thought of disobeying her orders. She had the somewhat grand manners of the old days, now alas! almost disappeared. It has been said of her that she



Louisa Finch

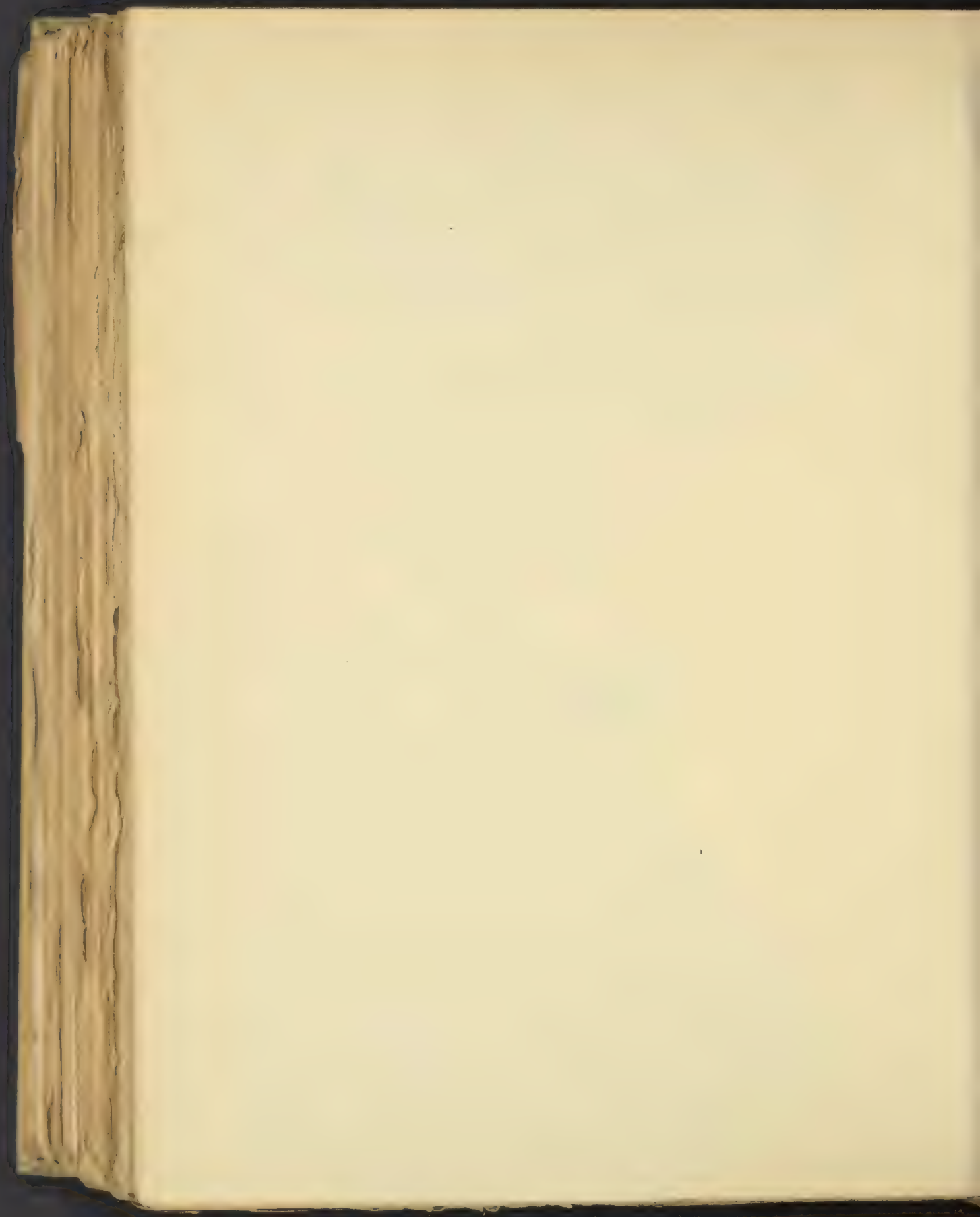
LADY LOUISA FINCH AS A CHILD.
WIFE OF MR. GEORGE FINCH, AND DAUGHTER OF HENRY CHARLES,
SIXTH DUKE OF BEAUFORT.
FROM A PAINTING AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, BY *Philip*.

was one of the last of the Grandes Dames. On her death in 1892, at the age of eighty-six, she was deeply regretted by all, and is buried in the family vault in Burley Churchyard. The value of a life such as hers never fades. We remember lives of great men, but we also remember lives of the pure in heart who "shall see God."

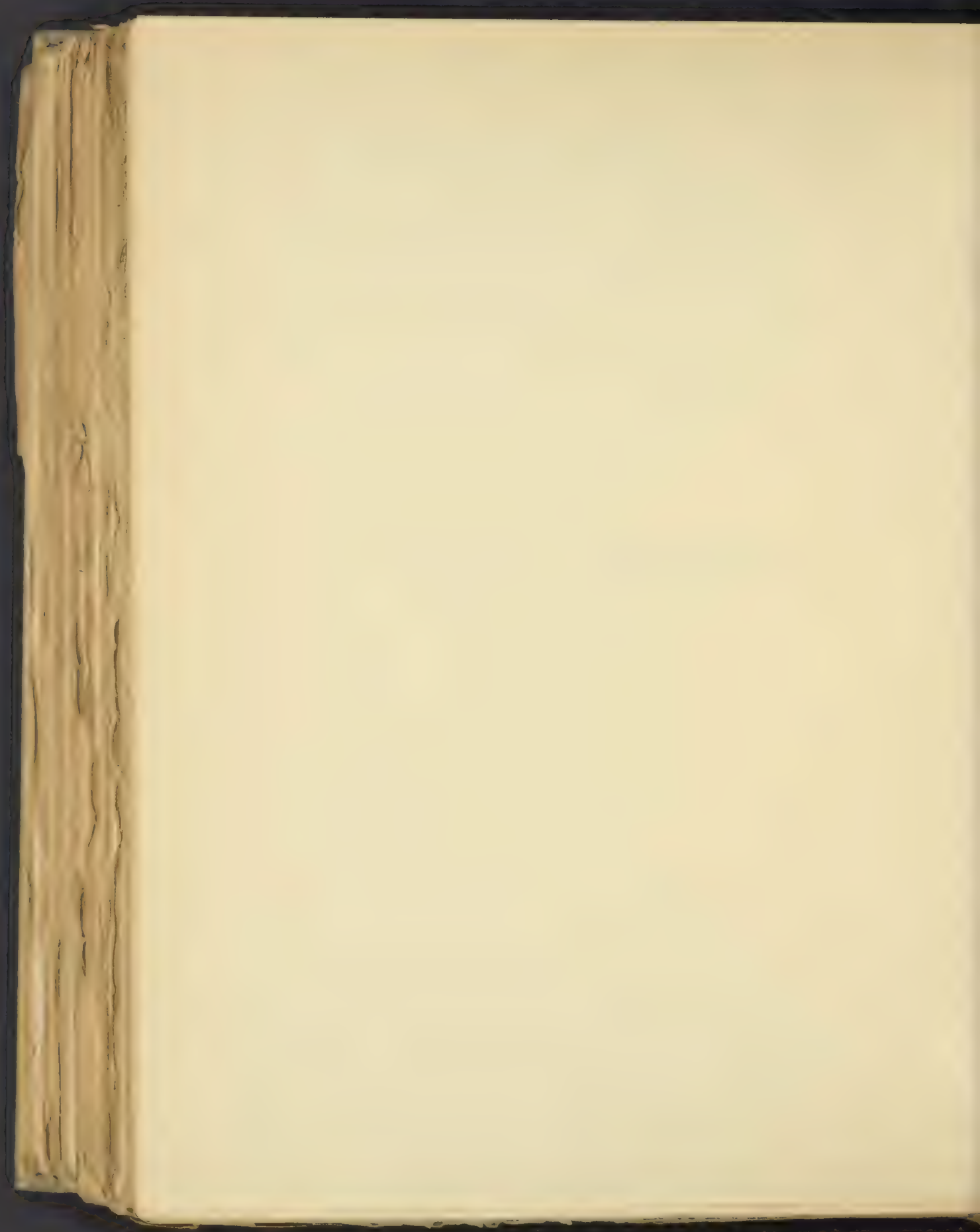
"She shall be loved and feared, her own shall bless her ;
Those about her shall read the perfect ways of honour."

"Love, sweetness, goodness in her person shined."





MR. GEORGE HENRY FINCH, M.P.







G. H. Finch

MR. G. H. FINCH, M.P.
PRESENT OWNER OF BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.



MR. GEORGE HENRY FINCH, M.P.

On the death of Mr. George Finch he was succeeded by his son, George Henry Finch, the present owner of Burley-on-the-hill. Few things are more disagreeable for persons living than to have their biographies written. And the difficulty of writing them is still greater. It will suffice to say that the present owner was born in 1835 ; educated first at Tinwell School, then at a private tutor's ; finally at New College, Oxford, where he was a Gentleman Commoner. At Oxford he took his degree of M.A., and was known there as a hard rider to hounds. On his first entering the University he tried to hunt six days a week, until a remonstrance from his tutor resulted in it being curtailed to two. A Gentleman Commoner at Oxford had great fun in those days. Reading was not made a strict necessity. In his day New College was noted for scholars who were mostly Winchester men ; and it was a curious place for a Gentleman Commoner to find himself in. But the race of Gentlemen Commoners is now a thing of the past.

In 1867 Mr. Finch stood, in conjunction with the Right Hon. G. Noel, for the County of Rutland. He was elected, and has continued to represent this county ever since. The last contested Election was in 1885, when he was returned

with a majority of 1,256; since then no person has had the courage to oppose him. This makes a period of thirty-four years' parliamentary service.

In 1861 Mr. Finch married Emily Eglantine, daughter of J. Balfour, Esq., of Balbirnie, Co. Fife, by his marriage with Lady Georgiana Campbell (see *Cawdor*). She died 1865.

In 1871 he married Edith Montgomery, daughter of Mr. Alfred Montgomery, by his marriage with the Hon. Fanny Wyndham (see *Leconfield*).

Mr. Finch is a County Magistrate and County Councillor, and is honorary Major in the Leicestershire Yeomanry. Before the time of present agricultural depression he was very fond of hunting, and rode hard; but like so many landowners, has been forced of late years to give up his favourite pastime.

With this sketchy history of my father must end the lives of the owners of Burley-on-the-Hill. There is much I could write of the virtues and character of one whom I, equally with my brothers and sisters, sincerely love and reverence; but it would seem a want of taste to put it down. I can only conclude with the earnest hope that it may be many, many years before Burley-on-the-Hill has a new owner, and that those who come after may prove themselves equally worthy of their inheritance.



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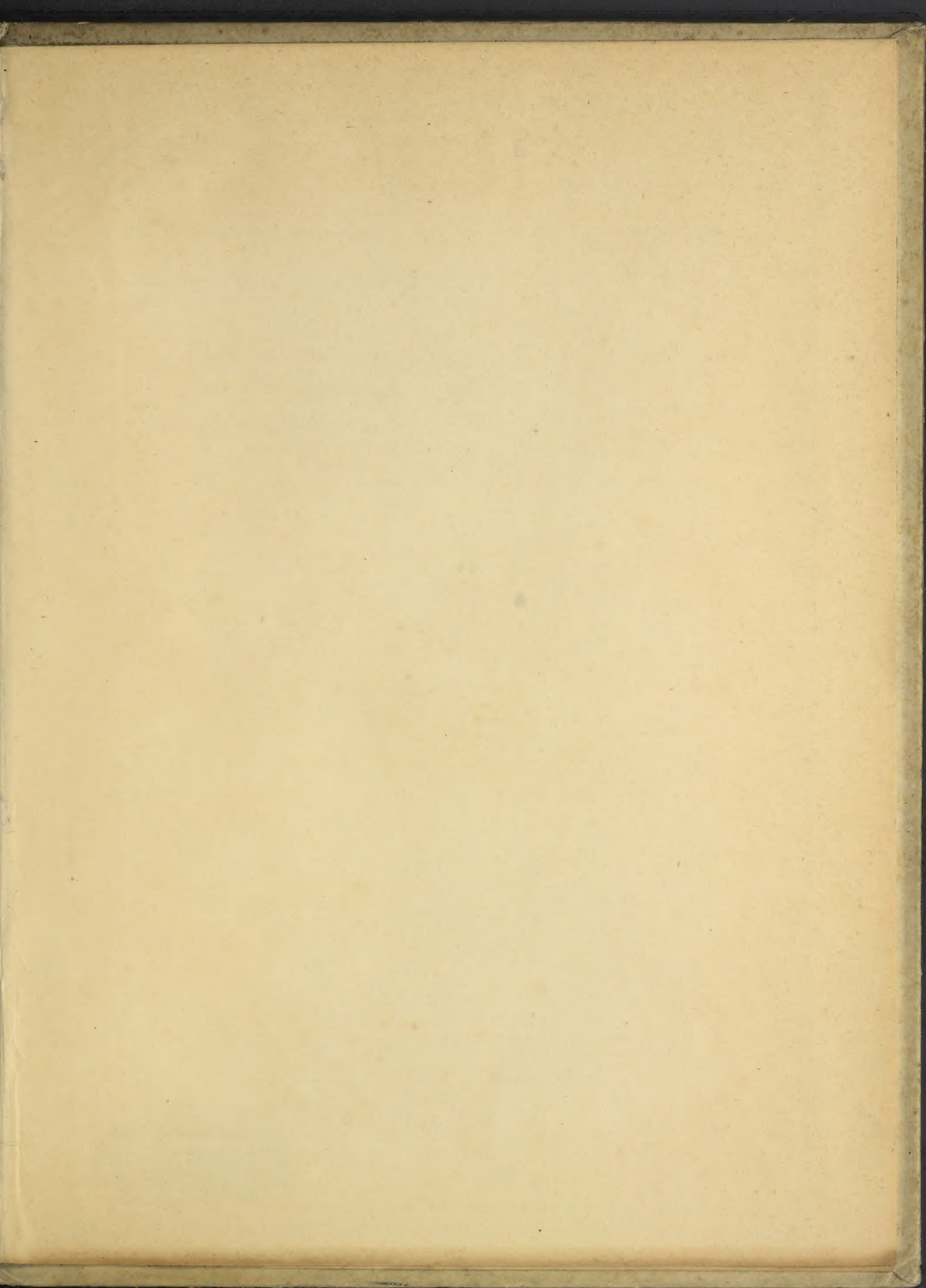
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END OF VOLUME I.



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after passing to two Finch half-brothers, Burley-on-the-Hill
passed to the heirs of their sister, Swendoline (Finch), nee
Hambury. There was a sale of the house furniture at the house,
by Knight, Frank Rutley (By direction of Major James
Hambury) 20-22 May 1947.

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